



### PLAR Worked For Me!

Ulana Orrick was a stay-at-home mom running a home daycare and cake decorating business. She's now a student in the Fitness and Health Promotion program.

*"I was able to use PLAR for a few of my courses using past assignments and projects from a previous program, as well as my experience as the event coordinator for the Quinte Parents of Multiples. I think these types of supports are essential – especially as a woman who has taken time away from her career to raise her children. It was very difficult to find work after being a stay-at-home mom for nearly eight years. The opportunity to retrain is exactly what I needed."*

Kelly Briggs, Coordinator of Children's Separation and Reunion Programs at Trenton Military Family Resource Centre, received credit for 17 courses in the Social Service Worker program through PLAR. As a result, her program was shortened by three semesters.

*"Initially I approached the College to ask if I would be able to take the program on a part-time basis," said Kelly. "I was encouraged to do PLAR. I feel opportunities like these break down the barriers for mature students. I knew that I had strong skills but to have them recognized by the College was a wonderful validation. My family and employers have been very supportive and I feel so fortunate."*



Kyle Dodds, second-year Community and Justice Services student.

*"PLAR saved me time and money. As a homeowner who works full time, I was looking for a way to earn my diploma in the most cost-effective way possible. PLAR recognized previous work experience and education that related to my chosen program. This shortened the remaining program requirements to 25% of the regular course load – reducing my costs immensely! I was able to return to school and maintain my current lifestyle. Perhaps it's maturity but I'm focused, I'm confident and this second College experience has been fantastic."*

# LOYALIST

**LOYALIST COLLEGE**  
376 Wallbridge-Loyalist Road  
P.O. Box 4200  
Belleville, Ontario, Canada  
K8N 5B9  
Phone: (613) 969-1913  
Fax: (613) 969-7905  
Toll Free: 1-888-569-2547  
TTY: 613-962-0633  
[loyalistcollege.com](http://loyalistcollege.com)



**Earn credit  
for your life  
experience**

## PLAR PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT RECOGNITION



**LOYALIST COLLEGE**  
BELLEVILLE, ONTARIO

# PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT RECOGNITION

**Contact:** [PriorLearning@loyalistc.on.ca](mailto:PriorLearning@loyalistc.on.ca)

At Loyalist, your previous learning and work experience is recognized and respected, and you're given the opportunity to illustrate your current knowledge and challenge courses within the program of your choice. Applicants with work experiences or other types of non-credentialed learning may be eligible for credits. You'll be given credit with a grade, rather than a course exemption. A PLAR advisor will work with you to determine whether your skill and knowledge can be credited towards the program of your choice.

## FAQs

**Q** *How does it work?*

**A** A PLAR advisor will arrange a meeting to assess your ability to meet course outcomes and determine how your education and experience may already satisfy those requirements. They then arrange for you to meet with the program professor or coordinator and decide which method would best evaluate your learning – testing, portfolio development and/or skills demonstration.

**Q** *What kind of experience do you recognize?*

**A** You gain life experience in many ways – volunteer work, self-taught, travel or previous training. At Loyalist we believe it's more important for you to focus on the skills you need to learn for your new career, than to spend time revisiting education and skills you already have.

**Q** *I have extensive computer experience. Do I need to take the computer classes listed in the program outline?*

**A** If you are able to show that your skills meet the course requirements through assessment, then you can be graded on that assessment instead of taking the course.

**Q** *What does it mean to challenge a course?*

**A** You can challenge an entire course or certain course requirements (modules). The challenge process is determined by a designated professor who measures your demonstrated learning against the knowledge and skills required. If you're successful, credit will be awarded without requiring enrolment in a course or module.

**Q** *When should I request an assessment?*

**A** When you are admitted to a program and receive your course outlines, you should review the objectives to determine if you have already covered the material. If so, you should request an assessment.

**Q** *I wouldn't know where to begin in developing my portfolio – any suggestions?*

**A** If you wish to begin a career-planning process and prepare for entry into a College program, you may enrol in a PLAR portfolio development course. This course is available through Continuing Education and is one semester in length. When you're finished, you can submit the resulting portfolio to the PLAR advisor who will help to assess how your portfolio meets the requirements and learning outcomes of the necessary courses or modules.

**Q** *Is challenging courses worth the effort?*

**A** Your time is valuable. Depending upon the number of courses you are credited for, you could shorten the time necessary to complete your program – less time, less money and a jump-start on your career.

**Q** *What if I only need a little more work to meet the requirements for a credit?*

**A** Sometimes after challenging a course, you may need to complete additional work to successfully achieve your credit. Your professor may prepare a learning contract, which is a formal agreement that identifies the work you need to complete.

**Q** *How many courses can I challenge?*

**A** Transfer of Credit and Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition is available to a maximum of 75% of certificate or diploma requirements.

**Q** *What type of costs will I need to cover?*

**A** When you're challenging a course, there is a fee that is payable in advance and it is non-refundable. The fee to challenge a course in 2013-14 was approximately \$112.47 and the Portfolio Development course was \$279.76. These fees are subject to change.



If you have any further questions,  
email: [PriorLearning@loyalistc.on.ca](mailto:PriorLearning@loyalistc.on.ca)  
or call (613) 969-1913 ext. 2373  
we would be pleased to guide you through the process.

This document is available in alternative format upon request.