

# Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition for PSW

**Policy ID:** 2-226a

**Approved by:** Vice President Academic

**Executive(s) Responsible:** Vice President Academic

**Administrator(s) Responsible:** Program Lead; Student Success; Registrar

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**Effective Date:** October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

**Next Review Date:** October 2025

## Background and Scope

At The Ontario Institute for Health and Innovation (OIHI), the Personal Support Worker program has specific requirements which differ from other programs offered at OIHI. Delivering the PSW curriculum from the National Association of Career Colleges (NACC), OIHI adheres to their standards, limits and procedures of recognizing prior learning for the purpose of issuing credits for advanced academic standing on admission.

This policy applies to all administrators involved in program delivery and student record maintenance at OIHI.

## Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to articulate the requirements of and limits to recognizing prior learning for the purpose of advanced academic standing on admission to the PSW program at OIHI.

## Definitions

### PLAR

PLAR stands for prior learning assessment and recognition. This is the process of evaluating past student achievement in study or practical placements for the purpose of issuing credit towards a program of study at OIHI. Associated terms often used when referring to PLAR processes is transfer credits and advanced academic standing.

### Advanced Academic Standing

Advanced academic standing is the state of a student who is granted credit through PLAR at the time of admission to a program of study at OIHI. In these cases the student begins their program having already completed the modules for which they have been issued credit through PLAR.

## Policy Statements

1. In order to be assessed for advanced standing credit issuance for prior learning, students must meet all admission requirements for their program of study.
2. Credits issued through PLAR for Theory or Practical courses relate to subjects 1 to 12 in the curriculum.
  - 2.1. The maximum credit that can be granted for Theory/Practical (Labs) courses is 1/3 (130 out of 400 hours) of the total in-class theory and practical hours.
  - 2.2. To be assessed for advanced standing credit issuance for prior learning in practical or theory courses, a student must complete the following:
    - 2.2.1. Have successfully completed previous related courses, AND must challenge the applicable Module test, AND any applicable Performance Demonstration (Lab), AND achieve a minimum passing score of 75% on each.
    - 2.2.2. complete the Request for Prior Learning Assessment Recognition form and submit to OIHI with the required documentation (Refer to PSW PLAR Form).
    - 2.2.3. attend a personal interview with the Program Lead, which will include a review of the student's transcript of grades for previous courses completed.
  - 2.3. The Program Lead will determine, on an individual basis, the amount of credit that will be granted.
3. Credit granted for prior clinical placement hours are subject to different requirements and limits.
  - 3.1. The maximum credit that can be granted for Clinical Placement hours is 100 hours, for precepted Clinical Placement ONLY.
  - 3.2. To be assessed for advanced standing credit issuance for prior clinical placement hours, a student must complete the following:
    - 3.2.1. provide a letter from her or his employer(s), indicating the length of employment, duties performed, and a general evaluation of the student's abilities as a caregiver; and
    - 3.2.2. attend a personal interview with the Program Lead, which will include a review of the employer(s) letter(s).
  - 3.3. The Program Lead will determine, on an individual basis, the number of hours that may be granted credit for.
4. Credit from NACC Home Support Worker Program
  - 4.1. If a student has successfully completed the NACC Home Support Worker (HSW) program within 2 years of enrolling in the PSW Program, all modules will be accepted as credit toward the PSW Program, including Community Placement hours.
  - 4.2. If a student has completed the NACC HSW Program more than two (2) years and less than five (5) years prior to enrolling in the PSW Program, they must:

- 4.2.1. meet with the PSW Program Lead to review student's transcripts.
  - 4.2.2. challenge the Module tests and performance demonstrations for modules already completed and receive a minimum passing score of 75%.
  - 4.2.3. have their readmission determined on an individual basis by the PSW Program Lead or once the above conditions have been met.
- 4.3. If a student completed the NACC HSW Program more than five (5) years prior to enrolling in the PSW Program, the student must enroll as a new student and complete all modules.

## Related Policies

Policy Name	Policy Number
Academic Standing and Progression	2-203

## Document History

Date	Approval/Review/Key Change(s)
August 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	Revision Lead by Academic Excellence and Compliance
September 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	Rebranding.