

Policy History
Policy No. AC6
Approving Jurisdiction: Senate
Administrative Responsibility: Provost and Vice President Academic
Effective Date: September 1, 2020

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Policy

A. CONTEXT AND PURPOSE

Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) is a special purpose, teaching university under the University Act. The University Act states that the senate of a special purpose, teaching university has the power and duty to “set policies on curriculum evaluation for determining whether courses or programs, or course credit, from another university or body are equivalent to courses or programs, or course credit, at the special purpose, teaching university” (35.2 (5) (k) (i)).

KPU recognizes that students attain significant learning at a post- secondary level from formal academic learning, as well as work, training and other experiences outside the formal post-secondary education system. Those who have gained such learning may be assessed and receive credit for that learning to pursue further education within KPU through the Recognition of Prior Learning process (RPL).

RPL at KPU includes two evaluation processes: transfer credit and prior learning assessment and recognition (PLAR). KPU will continue to enter into formal articulation agreements with recognized post-secondary institutions to facilitate credit transfer for courses of similar content, learning outcomes and evaluation standards. The assessment of equivalency will rely on the judgment of faculty as subject matter experts. KPU uses PLAR to assess for knowledge and skills acquired through previous informal and non-formal learning, work and life experiences, and formal learning that is ineligible for transfer credit when determining equivalency for KPU credit.

B. SCOPE AND LIMITS

This policy applies to applicants and/or students of KPU’s Senate approved programs. This policy does not apply to students enrolling in courses or programs outside the jurisdiction of Senate.

C. STATEMENT OF POLICY PRINCIPLES

1. In support of student success, KPU is committed to providing access to lifelong, meaningful education through the recognition of prior learning (RPL).
2. KPU recognizes that learners bring life and work experiences deserving of formal recognition.

3. KPU recognizes the mobility of learners and is committed to supporting the accessibility and portability of credits through the RPL process.
4. RPL eliminates duplication of learning, in turn reducing financial barriers for students and time to completion of studies.
5. Awarding of credit is consistent with identified learning outcomes, relative to a particular course or program.
6. KPU is committed to fair, consistent and transparent assessment methods in providing RPL.
7. In all RPL arrangements the academic integrity of KPU's courses and programs must be protected and preserved.

D. DEFINITIONS

Refer to Section A in the related Procedures for definitions which will enhance the reader's interpretation of this Policy.

E. RELATED POLICIES & LEGISLATION

AR2 Admission

AR16 Requirements for Graduation

F. RELATED PROCEDURES

AC6 Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Procedure