

Moved: P. Bailey

Seconded: M. Inkster

THAT Senate approve the following policy statement on Prior Learning Assessment:

A goal of Laurentian University's School of Nursing, English Division is to facilitate access to B.Sc.N. education and to promote a lifelong learning process. To this end, the School employs Prior Learning Assessment (PLA), an evaluate method for assessing a student's prior learning and ongoing professional development. The School invites students to participate in PLA at admission to the B.Sc.N. program or prior to completing 15 credits. Prior learning is evaluated against established B.Sc.N. course outcomes so that credit(s) can be awarded for equivalency. The percentage of credit granted toward the B.Sc.N. degree is a function of the program applied to and the student's portfolio. In accordance with university policy, a student must complete a minimum of 30 credits in order to obtain a degree from Laurentian.

The PLA process necessitates the student to prepare an submit a portfolio. A portfolio is a comprehensive dossier encompassing a student's achievements, reflections and critical thinking in view of previously acquired knowledge and skills. It can also include challenge exams, courses taken, work experience, volunteer work and other life experiences. The School of Nursing has specific guidelines for the portfolio content.

RATIONALE

Prior Learning assessment (PLA) is based on Registered Nurses Association of Ontario recommendations. PLA facilitates professional growth, promotes accessibility to baccalaureate education in nursing and allows for reduction in overall education costs by eliminating duplication in learning.

The motion was adopted unanimously.