

## Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)



Red River College (RRC) is committed to principles of a learning college, which include Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and life-long learning.

The College's RPL services and system are coordinated and provided by the RPL Facilitator, RPL Advisor(s), RPL assessors, and the RPL Committee of cross-college representatives and designates from academic departments, support and administrative services. The RPL system development and implementation is integrated with the College's Strategic Plan.

### Recognition of Prior Learning

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is a process in which students have the opportunity to obtain credit for knowledge and skills equivalent to outcomes in College courses. RPL is a process that evaluates qualifying prior learning for credit. Prior learning is any learning gained from formal education, work and/or volunteer experience, personal study and life activities that have resulted in knowledge and skills.

Following College policies and procedures, an individual demonstrates or proves learning equivalent to the standards and expectations of a specific course/program. RRC faculty are the course "experts" who use valid, rigorous assessment methods to determine if the learning meets or exceeds the level required for credit.

**Note:** *Not all RRC courses have RPL processes.*

*If you require information related to RPL resources, RPL professional development and training courses, or RPL projects and initiatives, please contact:*

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*If you are a prospective or current student seeking information on RPL, please contact:*

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## Methods for Assessing Prior Learning

At Red River College, assessment of prior learning uses one of the following methods:

### 1. Assessment of Educational Documents for Transfer Credits

Assessment of formal courses completed through recognized post-secondary institutions may be equivalent to courses in a program of study at RRC. The student is required to submit original or certified transcripts and detailed course outlines. Program faculty make Transfer of Credit decisions.

### 2. Challenge Process

Methods of flexible assessment developed and evaluated by RRC faculty measure a student's prior learning as it relates to learning outcomes of specific course(s) in a college program. These methods include:

#### 2.1 Challenge Examinations (i.e. oral/written tests, projects, assignments, interviews, product assessments)

Assignments, tests, projects, interviews etc. are based on the learning outcomes of a specific course(s), and are designed by program faculty to assess college-level learning. The student seeking credit for prior learning is provided with course information and accesses appropriate texts and other learning materials to prepare for challenge processes. If the student is successful in demonstrating equivalent learning through challenge processes, credit is granted.

#### 2.2 Skill Demonstrations (i.e. practical examinations, skill demonstrations, simulations)

Practical examinations, skill demonstrations and simulations involve the actual demonstration of the student's learning as it relates to the learning outcomes of a course(s). The student is provided with course materials such as a course outline, performance checklists and accesses texts and other resources. Program faculty assess the student's skill against specific course learning outcomes and performance standards. If successful in the challenge processes for the course, credit is granted.

### 3. Portfolio Assessment

A portfolio is a detailed document developed by the student, which identifies and provides proof of the learning acquired through work and life experience, which may be equivalent to the learning outcomes in a college course(s). The portfolio is assessed for course credit by program faculty. The student may develop a portfolio with assistance from program faculty and /or the RPL Advisor.

### 4. External Course/Program Assessment

RRC has developed a process for the evaluation of programs/courses offered through industry, business or community groups to determine equivalency to college courses. This process includes specific policies, guidelines and a fee structure for the evaluation of workplace training.

**Fees Note:** *The student is required to pay fees for RPL processes. Fees are based on the services performed in the process and not by the amount of credit awarded. Fees vary depending on the RPL method used.*