



## HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE PLAR CHALLENGE?

- ◆ Determine your ability to demonstrate mastery of the expectations of the course you wish to challenge. To view the expectations for any course, you can visit the Ministry of Education website at [www.edu.gov.on.ca](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca) Select English or French, then Elementary/Secondary. Scroll down to Curriculum and Policy, then click on Secondary Curriculum. Select Grade 10 Curriculum or Grade 11 and 12. Select and identify the subject area that interests you.
- ◆ Gather and organize all evidence that demonstrates your knowledge and skills related to the course you wish to challenge. (Examples of evidence may include reference letters, certificates, sample assignments, samples of original work, a portfolio, descriptions of programs, courses or experiences that support your application).

## STEPS REQUIRED

All applicants are required to attend a PLAR Orientation Workshop. These workshops will take place at the York Catholic District School Board, 320 Bloomington Road West in Aurora on Oct 5, 2011 or Mar 7, 2012 .

## PLAR ORIENTATION SESSION

Two PLAR Orientation Sessions are available. (attend either one)

*Fall Session – Oct 5, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.*  
*OR*

*Spring Session – Mar 7, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.*

The purpose of the PLAR Orientation Session is

- clarify PLAR Challenge Policy
  - identify timelines
  - assist in the preparation for the challenge, and
- to identify
- documentation required
  - how your evaluation will be conducted
  - how your results will be reported
  - appeal procedures
  - timelines
  - withdrawal policy
  - contact information

## PLAR APPLICATION

At the Orientation Session, application packages will be available . The PLAR application package is to be submitted to the Adult and Continuing Education Department at the Education Centre two weeks after the Orientation Session.

1. *Fall Session – Oct 5, 2011*  
*Application Deadline - Oct 19, 2011*

2. *Spring Session – Mar 7, 2012*  
*Application Deadline - Mar 28, 2012*

PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT AND RECOGNITION

2011-2012

# PLAR

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition

*Life*  
*long learning*

Adult & Continuing Education Department  
320 Bloomington Road West  
Aurora, ON L4G 0M1

(416) 221-5051

Elizabeth Crowe  
Chair of the Board

Susan F. LaRosa  
Director of Education

# PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT AND RECOGNITION (PLAR)

## WHAT IS PLAR?

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) is a formal evaluation and accreditation process which gives students an opportunity to obtain a credit. Students may obtain credits towards their secondary school diploma (OSSD) for knowledge and skills that they have acquired outside of secondary school.

This prior learning is evaluated using a variety of assessment tools, over a period of time, to determine whether the student met the provincial expectations for a course. Students may “challenge” a specific course for credit or may obtain credits through the “equivalency” process if they have credentials from schools outside Ontario.

A percentage grade will be recorded for students who successfully complete the PLAR Challenge.

## CRITERIA FOR PLAR CHALLENGE WHO CAN CHALLENGE?

Students;

- ◆ enrolled in a regular day program in a secondary school or a mature student (18 years old, out of school for at least one year and returning to day school)
- ◆ planning to challenge the entire course for credit

- ◆ that have the pre-requisite requirements for the course they wish to challenge
- ◆ that have the “request to challenge” as part of their Annual Education Plan ( AEP)

## WHAT COURSES CAN BE CHALLENGED?

Students may challenge Grade 10, 11 or 12 courses taught in this board which are developed from a provincial policy document. These courses are described in the schools’ course calendars.

## WHAT COURSES CANNOT BE CHALLENGED?

- ◆ A course for which a credit has already been granted at the next grade level.
- ◆ A course for which a credit has already been granted, where there is significant overlap in the curriculum
- ◆ An academic credit if an applied in same subject has been earned and visa versa.
- ◆ A transfer course
- ◆ A locally developed course
- ◆ A cooperative education course

- ◆ A course in ESL, ELD or APD, if the student has earned a credit in English for any grade from the curriculum policy documents for English under OSS or OSIS.
- ◆ French as a Second Language course, if the student has earned a credit for French for any grade from the curriculum documents for Francais.

## HOW MANY COURSES CAN BE CHALLENGED FOR CREDIT?

Students may obtain a maximum of four credits through the PLAR process, but no more than two in one subject area.

## HOW TO GET STARTED?

The first step is to attend the PLAR Orientation Session. All students who intend to challenge a course for credit must register for and attend an Orientation Session.

