

PROGRAM

PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT AND RECOGNITION  
FOR MATURE STUDENTS

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**OBJECTIVE**

To provide guidelines for the implementation, of Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) for Mature Students, as outlined in  
(Section 7.2.5.2).

**DEFINITIONS**

**“Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)”** is the formal evaluation and credit-granting process whereby mature students may obtain credits for prior learning. Prior learning includes the knowledge and skills that students have acquired, in both formal and informal ways, outside secondary school. Students may have their knowledge and skills evaluated against the expectations outlined in provincial curriculum policy documents in order to earn credits towards the secondary school diploma. For mature students the PLAR process may involve two components for each of: grades 9, 10 and grades 11, 12. For grades 9, 10 the two components are individual assessment and/or equivalency. For grades 11, 12 the two components are equivalency and/or challenge.

**“Challenge”** process whereby the mature student’s prior learning is assessed for the purpose of granting credit for Grade 11 or 12 courses.

**“Equivalency”** is the process of assessing credentials from other jurisdictions, workplace and other institutions of learning and may involve individual assessment for the purpose of granting credits.

**“Credits:”** All credits granted through the PLAR process – that is, through either the individual assessment, challenge process or the equivalency process – must represent the same standards of achievement as credits granted to students who have taken the courses. The maximum number of credits that can be obtained from the PLAR process is twenty-six (26). A maximum of sixteen credits for grades 9 and 10 either through equivalency or individual assessment and a maximum of ten credits for grades 11 and 12 either through equivalency or challenge. Each student must earn the last four credits. These last four credits mustA ust

- Mature students who were enrolled as regular day school students in the Ontario secondary school system, and were placed in Grade 9 in 1999-2000 or later, Grade 10 in 2000-2001 or later, Grade 11 in 2001-2002 or later, or Grade 12 in 2002-2003 or later; and who return to school as mature students on February 1, 2004 or later to work towards

### 3.1 Achieving Mature Students Credit

- 3.2 Mature students may earn up to 10 of the 14 remaining Grade 11 and 12 credits needed to meet diploma requirements in three ways:
- i) Demonstrate achievement of the required secondary school curriculum expectations and receive credit through the challenge process; or
  - ii) Present education and/or training credentials and/or other appropriate documentation for assessment through the equivalency process; or
  - iii) At the discretion of the Principal, mature students may be granted up to 14 remaining Grade 11 and 12 credits if:
    - The mature student presents evidence of a completed postsecondary diploma and/or degree from an accredited Canadian postsecondary institution, including an Ontario Certificate of Apprenticeship and/or Qualification, they may obtain 14 Grade 11 and 12

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[http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/policy/os/onschools\\_2016e.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/policy/os/onschools_2016e.pdf)

Requirement for the secondary school graduation diploma (SSGD under Circular H.S. 1, 1974-1984)

The following table and all of the notes are taken from and refer to Circular H.S.1, 1979-81.

Students who began their secondary school program between 1974 and the beginning of the 1984-85 school year may t30cyear den (ms1.9 (a)) J J0 Tc 0 T w 1. De 9 0 w 6 (T) 5 0 0 1 2 0 0 2 (0) 2 2 2 9 0 2 0 0 1 4 5 7

[http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/policy/os/onschools\\_2016e.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/policy/os/onschools_2016e.pdf)

The following table and all of the notes are taken from and refer to Ontario Schools, Intermediate and Senior (Grade 7-12/OAC's) Program and Diploma Requirements (1989 OSIS).

Students who began their secondary school program between 1984 and the beginning of the 1999-2000 school year\* may work towards the OSSD under OSIS or OS/OSS

Minimum Number of Credits	Notes
For an OSSD including, within this total, the following	30
In required subjects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English (or francais) 5</li> <li>• French as a second language (or anglais) 1</li> <li>• Mathematics 2</li> <li>• Science 2</li> <li>• Canadian Geography 1</li> <li>• Canadian History 1</li> <li>• Additional social science (Senior) 1</li> <li>• Arts 1</li> <li>• Business studies or technological studies 1</li> <li>• Physical and health education 1</li> </ul>	Students may choose to take more than 30 credits, especially students who are incorporating OAC's into their programs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The listing of subjects under areas of study no longer applies.</li> <li>• The principal may grant a substitutions for up to 2 compulsory credits, and up to 4 compulsory credits for students identified as exceptional.</li> </ul> The 5 compulsory credits in English (or francais) will include at least 2 credits from Grade 11, 12, and/or OACs.  See Appendix B in OSIS, 1989, for further information.



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1. [Individual Assessment for Grade 9 and 10 Credits: Cumulative Tracking Record](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/ppm/ppm132/cumulative.pdf) available for download at (www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/ppm/ppm132/cumulative.pdf)
  2. [Individual Assessment for Grade 9 and 10 Credits: Interim Tracking Record](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/ppm/ppm132/interim.pdf) available for download at (www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/ppm/ppm132/interim.pdf)
  3. [Challenge Process for Grade 11 and 12 Credits: Cumulative Tracking Record](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/ppm/ppm132/cumulative2.pdf) available for download at (www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/ppm/ppm132/cumulative2.pdf)
  4. [Challenge Process for Grade 11 and 12 Credits: Interim Tracking Record](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/ppm/ppm132/interim2.pdf) available for download at (www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/ppm/ppm132/interim2.pdf)
  5. [Equivalency Process for Grade 11 and 12 Credits: Cumulative Tracking Record](#) Grade 11 (ed)-11.3 (u.)-6.8