Policy Name	**Recognition of Prior Learning**		
Policy #	**C.03**	Category	**Academic**
Approving Jurisdiction	**Board of Governors**	Replaces	**2012-02-27**
Administrative Responsibility	**Vice President, Education and Training**	Version	**2023-07-01**
		Next Review Date	**to be determined**

See the related PROCEDURES (Link to be added when posted.)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide assessment and recognition of knowledge that includes formal education as well as work, training, and other practical experiences outside the formal post-secondary education system. Those who have gained such learning may be assessed and receive credit for that learning within Aurora College through the Recognition of Prior Learning process.

SCOPE AND LIMITS

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is a process that enables assessment of documented or demonstrated evidence of knowledge and skills acquired through previous informal and non-formal learning, work and life experiences, and formal learning when determining equivalency for Aurora College.

The policy applies to the awarding of prior learning credit through transfer credit as well as non-formal and informal prior learning assessment to internal and external students.

This policy applies to applicants and students of approved programs and courses at Aurora College.

This policy applies to the transfer of credit from other post-secondary institutions where the substance of courses is equivalent in terms of content and rigour, but will not exceed fifty (50) percent. Exceptions may apply.

This policy incorporates internal transfers/student pathways in decisions related to credit recognition.

This policy does not set limits on the number of credits that students can transfer internally from one program to another, but the transfers are subject to program regulations and requirements.

The Registrar has the final decision in approving transfer credits. The awarding of credit shall be consistent with identified learning outcomes relative to a particular course or program.

POLICY STATEMENT
Aurora College recognizes the importance of student learning pathways. This includes recognizing a student's prior learning, relevant skills and knowledge, and current competencies where appropriate.

Guiding Principles
1. In support of student mobility and success, Aurora College is committed to providing recognition of lifelong and meaningful education through RPL assessments, credit transfers, and articulation agreements.

2. Learners bring life and work experiences deserving of formal recognition. RPL eliminates duplication of learning, reduces financial barriers for students, and decreases time needed to complete studies.

3. Aurora College is committed to fair, consistent, and transparent assessment methods in providing RPL.

DEFINITIONS
Advanced Standing: Academic credit awarded to a learner upon admission to a program.

Articulation Agreement: An agreement between two institutions that authorizes studies undertaken in specific programs at one institution to be credited toward direct entry into, or advanced standing in, specific programs at another institution.

Formal Learning: Learning that takes place in education and training institutions, is recognized by relevant authorities, and leads to credentials and qualifications. Formal learning is structured according to educational arrangements such as curricula, qualifications, and teaching-learning requirements.

Informal Learning: Learning that occurs in daily life, in the family, in the workplace, in communities, and through interests and activities of individuals. Through the recognition of prior learning process, competencies gained in informal learning can be made visible and can contribute to qualifications and other recognitions. In some cases, the term experiential learning is used to refer to informal learning that focuses on learning from experience.

Internal Transfer Student: A students who is registered in and/or previously completed approved programs and courses at Aurora College.

Non-formal Learning: Learning that has been acquired in addition or alternatively to formal learning. In some cases, it is also structured according to educational and training arrangements, but more flexible. It usually takes place in community-based settings, the workplace, and through the activities of non-government organizations. Through the recognition of prior learning process, non-formal learning can also lead to qualifications and other recognitions.

Recognition of Prior Learning: A defined process that allow individuals to identify, document, have assessed and gain recognition for prior learning. The learning may be formal, informal, non-formal, or experiential. The context of the learning is not vital to the process as the focus is on learning.

Transfer Credit: A course or program credit that is granted to a student for completion of courses or programs at another institution or at Aurora College. Transfer credit is granted solely at the discretion of the receiving institution. Equivalencies may be established on a course-to-course basis or as a block transfer of credits.

RELATED POLICIES/PROCEDURES/DOCUMENTS
C.23 Assignment of Credit to Programs and Courses
J.02 Fees
C.03.1 RPL Informal and Non-Formal Learning Procedure
C.03.2 RPL Transfer Credit Procedure
C.03.3 RPL Articulation Agreements Procedure

APPLICABLE LEGISLATION
Aurora College Act, RSNWT 1988, c A-7.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date	Update
1995-05	New policy *Prior Learning Assessment* issued.
1995-10	Policy revised. Policy and Program Committee Motion PPC#37-1995. Board of Governors Motion BG#78-1995. Implemented January 1, 1996.
2012-07-27	Policy revised. Policy renamed *Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition* Board of Governors Motion #BG30-2012. Implemented July 1, 2012.
2023-06-15	Policy revised. Policy renamed *Recognition of Prior Learning*. Combined policies *C.01 Transfer Credit*, *C.03 Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition*, and *G.16 Articulation Agreements*. Board of Governors Motion #BG14-2023 Implemented July 1, 2023.