

# **Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) for Mature Students Grade 9 and 10 individual Assessment/Equivalency Process**

## **Fact Sheet**

### **What is "PLAR for Mature Students"?**

- PLAR is the formal evaluation and credit-granting process whereby mature students may obtain credits for prior learning - the knowledge and skills that mature students have acquired, in both formal and informal ways, outside secondary school.
- Mature students may have their knowledge and skills evaluated against the expectations outlined in provincial curriculum documents in order to be granted credits towards the secondary school diploma. Students may review the Ontario curriculum expectations on the Internet at [www.edu.gov.on.ca](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca).

(For Grade 9 and 10 courses specifically, go to <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/>.)

- The PLAR process for mature students involves three processes: "individual assessment/equivalency" for Grade 9 and 10; "equivalency" for Grade 11 and 12; and "challenge" for Grade 11 and 12. Each process is described on a separate Fact Sheet.

### **Who is a "Mature Student"?**

A Mature Student is a student who:

- is at least 18 years old on or before December 31<sup>st</sup> of the school year;
- is enrolled in a secondary school credit program for the purpose of obtaining an OSSD;
- has been out of school for a period of at least one year before returning as an adult.

### **What is the Grade 9 and 10 Individual Assessment/Equivalency Process?**

- This is an individual assessment/equivalency process for the purpose of granting up to 16 Grade 9 and 10 credits through (a) review and analysis of transcripts, or (b) review and analysis of transcripts and completion of individual assessments, or (c) completion of individual assessments.

### **Who begins the process?**

- The mature student, who is enrolled in a secondary school course, begins the process by submitting the application form, available from the main office at Holy Angels Learning Centre.

### **What does the application process involve?**

- The completion of an application form, including
  - a) a request for a review and analysis of a transcript showing up to two years of secondary schooling comparable to the Ontario Grade 9 and 10 program (for up to 16 equivalent credits);
  - b) the attachment of a transcript, where applicable (the transcript must be translated into English or French); and/or
  - c) in the absence of a transcript, or in the event that fewer than 16 equivalent credits are granted or earned, a request for a statement from the principal regarding how the credits required to reach a total of 16 may be obtained.

### **How is the individual assessment process done?**

- Mature students, who have completed all or part of the first two years of secondary school in an educational system comparable to that in Ontario and have appropriate transcripts, are granted equivalent credits by the principal based on an examination of the transcript. The principal will grant the equivalent credits if the curriculum expectations and standards of achievement are similar to the curriculum expectations and standards where credits are granted to students who have taken the course.
- If mature students do not have transcripts or have not completed the first two years of secondary school, they may be required to successfully complete an Individual Assessment in some or all of Grade 9 and 10 Canadian Geography/History, English, Mathematics and Science.

- The Individual Assessment may involve a written component and may also include an oral component.
- The Individual Assessment is a "pass/fail" assessment.

**How many credits can be granted in the Grade 9 and 10 individual assessment/equivalency process?**

- A maximum of 16 Grade 9 and 10 equivalent credits can be granted through this process.

**How is the record keeping done?**

- Entries on the student's Cumulative Tracking Record will show the equivalent credits granted for Grades 9 and 10, entered as one total for each subject area (e.g., English, 4).
- Entries on the student's *Ontario Student Transcript* will show the equivalent credits granted for Grades 9 and 10, entered as one total.

**Is there a fee?**

- No.

**When can I complete the individual assessment/equivalency process?**

- After you register, you will develop a plan with the Vice-Principal of Holy Angels Learning Centre to determine when you will complete the assessments. Note: Opportunities to write the challenge assessments for the grade 9 and 10 courses will only be offered to students once each semester.

**Can I participate again in an assessment if I am unsuccessful the first time I try?**

- Students who fail an assessment may retake it as often as necessary for them to complete it successfully. Your vice-principal will speak to you about this, should you be unsuccessful in an individual assessment.