WHAT IS P. L. A. R. ?

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) is the formal evaluation and credit-granting process through which mature students may obtain credits for prior learning - the knowledge and skills that adults have acquired, in both formal and informal ways, outside secondary school. The PLAR process for mature students involves three procedures:

⇒ "individual assessment/equivalency" (Gr. 9 /10)
⇒ "equivalency" (GR. 11/12)
⇒ "challenge" (GR. 11/12)

WHO IS A MATURE STUDENT?

A mature student is a student who is:

⇒ at least 18 years old
⇒ 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 on year before returning as an adult.

WHO PARTICIPATES IN PLAR?

Mature students who are new to the Ontario Secondary School system as of February 2, 2004 and who are working towards the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) under OSS diploma requirements.

Mature students who were enrolled as Students in the Ontario Secondary School system, and 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 returns to school as mature students on February 1, 2004, or later to work towards the OSSD under OSS diploma requirements.

NOTE: Mature students who were enrolled in the Ontario Secondary School system prior to 1999 and who continue to work towards their OSSD under OSIS or HIS Diploma requirements do not have to participate in the PLAR process.

NOTE: Mature students working towards OSS diploma requirements **must** successfully complete the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test and the forty hours of community involvement to graduate

WHAT COURSES CANNOT BE CHALLENGED?

A student cannot be granted credits through the Grade 11 and 12 PLAR Challenge Process for the following courses:

⇒ a course previously failed

⇒ a course for which the student has already earned a credit, in order to improve the mark

⇒ a course in any subject if a credit has already been granted for a course in that subject in a later grade.

⇒ a course in any subject if a credit has already been granted for a course in that subject in a later grade.

⇒ a course for which there is significant overlap with a course for which credit has been granted

⇒ a transfer course

⇒ a locally developed course

⇒ a Cooperative Education course

⇒ the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

⇒ or the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC)

⇒ a course in English as a Second Language (ESL), English Literacy Development (ELD), or Anglais pour Débutants (APD), if the student has one or more credits in Englishh

⇒ a course in French as a Second Language (FSL), Actualisation linguistique en français(ALF), or Perfectionnement du français (PDF), if the student has one or more credits in French.

CAN STUDENTS CHALLENGE FOR CREDIT AGAIN IF NOT SUCCESSFUL THE FIRST TIME?

A student will be permitted to challenge a specific course a second time after an appropriate interval, if the student can provide reasonable evidence that he or she is likely to be successful after having benefited from additional study and experience.

P. L. A. R

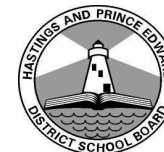**PRIOR LEARNING**

ASSESSMENT

AND

RECOGNITION

FOR MATURE STUDENTS

For further information or to apply for PLAR contact :

Quinte Adult Education
613 962-3133 or visit our office at
Quinte Secondary School
45 College Street West

Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board

GRADE 9 AND 10 INDIVIDUAL ASSESSMENT / EQUIVALENCY PROCESS

What is it?

An individual mature student assessment/ equivalency process for the purpose of granting up to 16 Grade 9 and 10 credits through:
   a) transcript, or
   b) transcript and completion of individual assessment, or
   c) completion of individual assessment

What is the individual assessment process?

Students without appropriate transcripts for all or part of the first two years of secondary school will be required to complete an individual assessment in some or all of grade 9 and 10 English, Mathematics, Science, and Canadian Geography/ History.

How do individual assessments result in credits?

Successful completion of the individual assessment process will result in up to four credits in each of the four subject areas. These grade 9 and 10 credits will meet the diploma requirements that would usually be met through successful completion of the grade 9 and 10 programs.

If the student earns fewer than four credits in each subject area, the Program Coordinator will determine how the student can obtain the remaining credits.

The Program Coordinator may defer assessment on grade 9 and 10 Canadian Geography/History until a student has sufficient time to develop the required language skills or becomes more familiar with Canadian culture.

Does this process earn a certificate?

The Program Coordinator may grant the OSSC (Ontario Secondary School Certificate) to a mature student following successful completion of the individual assessments. Unlike adolescents, mature students are eligible to receive this certificate and continue to pursue and earn an

GRADE 11 AND 12 EQUIVALENCY PROCESS

What is it?

The process for obtaining credits that involves an evaluation of a mature student's:
   a) education, and/or
   b) training credentials, and/or
   c) other appropriate documentation of learning gained from other program, courses, or work experiences.

What is the process?

Applicants who wish to participate in the grade 11 and 12 PLAR equivalency process must:

⇒ be enrolled in a secondary school course;

⇒ carefully review the curriculum expectations for each course in which they wish to be granted credits;

⇒ complete the PLAR "Application for grade 11 and 12 Credits through the Equivalency Process";

⇒ present credentials and/or documents that show evidence of learning that relates directly to the Ontario curriculum expectations for specific courses.

Points to Remember:

⇒ Mature students must *earn a minimum of four* Grade 11 and 12 credits including: grade 11 and 12 English, grade 11 or 12 Math, grade 11 or 12 Science

⇒ It is recommended that the Program Coordinator delay granting grade 11 and 12 equivalent credits until the above four courses have been successfully completed.

⇒ Students may obtain no more than 10 grade 11/12 credits through the equivalency and challenge Process.

⇒ The Program Coordinator may grant half-credits only for specific half-credit courses

GRADE 11 AND 12 CHALLENGE PROCESS

What is it?

The challenge process is an assessment process. Unlike the grade 11 and 12 equivalency process, a student who successfully challenges a credit receives an actual percentage grade recorded on their transcript.

Mature students may challenge for credit for up to ten grade 11 and 12 courses. However, they may obtain no more than ten grade 11 and 12 credits through the challenge and equivalency processes combined. There is no maximum on the number of credits that may be obtained in any one discipline.

Mature students may challenge a course for credit if they can provide reasonable evidence to the Program Coordinator that they are likely to be successful in the challenge process.

Applicants who wish to participate in the grade 11 and 12 challenge process must:

⇒ be enrolled in a secondary school course;

⇒ carefully review the curriculum expectations for each subject which they want to challenge;

⇒ complete the Challenge Application Form.

Each application must be reviewed and approved prior to the student's participation in the Challenge Assessment Process.

Mature students may include certificates or other records of accomplishment earned outside of school as reasonable evidence that they will likely be successful in a challenge for credit for a related course. However, students with Ministry of Education recognized music certificates that are accepted for credits in OSS are not required to challenge for credit for the appropriate music courses. Credits are granted for these certificates.