California University of Pennsylvania

Graduate School POLICY: Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)

A. **Purpose & Scope**
To describe the policy and procedures related to graduate level prior learning assessment.

B. **Definition(s)**
Prior learning assessment is a process that allows certain students to earn credit for learning acquired through experience.

C. **Policy**
Graduate students may be able to earn credits via prior learning assessment (PLA). Qualifying experience could be work, military training, personal educational growth, volunteer work, certificate training, specialized certifications, or independent study. Credit may be awarded when a student is able to demonstrate transferable learning; that is, knowledge that can be applied to a new or different situation. Prior learning assessment requires an understanding of theoretical concepts involved in the learning experience. Appropriate documentation must be provided. Graduate students may earn no more than thirty percent (30%) of the credits required for a California University graduate degree, certificate, or certification program.

D. **Procedure(s)**
1. Current students may request a PLA review through the Office of Academic Success.
2. PLA review does not guarantee that California University credit will be awarded.
3. All PLA reviews are conducted by appropriate faculty in academic programs/departments with approval of the appropriate department chair and the graduate dean.
4. A per credit fee is charged for all credits awarded to students via PLA.
5. If the PLA request is approved, credits, not grades, will be awarded and transcribed through the Office of Articulation and Transfer.

NOTE: PLA may have financial aid and loan repayment implications. PLA credit is not eligible for financial aid consideration. PLA credits are coded with the letter "P" and are not considered "registered credits". Loan repayment may be triggered if no "registered credits" are on the student's schedule. Before considering PLA, students should consult with the Financial Aid Office.

E. **Effective Date:** March 21, 2016, approved by University Curriculum Committee
Updated Date: March 3, 2016, approved by Graduate Dean's Council
Amended Date: