

Prior Learning Assessment & Recognition

Get the credit you deserve!

1. Prior Learning Assessment & Recognition

In considering your goal to earn the MMP certification, you may think that you have already acquired some of the knowledge and skills covered by the MMP modules 2-7. If so, Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition may be for you.

2. What is PLAR?

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition is a process that allows you to receive recognition for skills and knowledge that you have already acquired. Whether it's learning from previous Teaching Institution or university courses, work experience, and/or independent studies, PEMAC recognizes that post-secondary level learning can take place in a variety of settings, both inside and outside the traditional classroom. Learning may have been acquired through on-the-job experience, formal education and training programs or through self- instruction. Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition – or PLAR – is the term used to describe the process of assessment and recognition of knowledge, skills, and abilities acquired through formal and non-formal education, training, or experience as they relate to specific modules offered by PEMAC.

Obtaining recognition for prior learning can reduce the amount of classroom time required to obtain the MMP certificate, eliminates repetitive learning and allows you to add to your professional qualifications while working.

3. How Much Recognition Can I Get?

Module 1, “An Integrated Strategy for Maintenance Management” and Module 8, “Capstone” are compulsory and therefore not eligible for credit through Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition.

You may qualify for credit for the remaining modules in the Maintenance Management Professional program through the Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition process. PLAR applications are evaluated on a per-module basis. To apply for PLAR for each module, candidates must submit a separate application form and fee.

4. Am I a Good Candidate for PLAR?

To help you answer this question, here are some questions for you to consider:

1. Do I have five or more recent years experience in the plant engineering and maintenance field?
2. Do I have in-depth experience relating to a specific MMP module?

3. Has my learning progressed in this area over time?
4. Do I keep up-to-date with changes in my field by reading materials and by taking workshops and courses?
5. Do I network with others in my profession or field?
6. Can I demonstrate my learning by taking a challenge exam or by submitting documented evidence?

If you can answer, “yes” to the above questions, you have a higher probability of success.

5. Eligible Learning

The learning acquired through work and life experience must demonstrate the achievement of learning outcomes attributed to an eligible MMP module. This is determined by reviewing module Learning Outcomes.

6. PLAR Options

a. Transfer Credit or Exemption:

If you have completed a comparable course (content, level and length) at another accredited institution, you may apply for an exemption. A course outline will be required to assess currency of learning. A candidate must receive a minimum grade of C on each of the learning outcomes in order to be approved for PLAR for the module. If you have completed the course at an institution outside of Canada, you are advised to have your credential assessed for Canadian equivalency before applying for an exemption.

Two organizations that specialize in credential assessment are:
ICAS, International Credential Assessment Service, www.icascanada.ca (519) 763-6964

World Education Services (WES) • www.wes.org (416) 972-0070

Please contact the institutions directly for a description of their services and fees.

b. Challenge Exam:

Demonstration of knowledge and skills is required in written proficiency exams evaluated by PEMAC assessors. Exams are usually 3 hours in length and consist of a number of short-answer essay type questions, multiple choice and True/False. To receive PLAR recognition, candidates must achieve a minimum of 60% in the exam. Challenge exams are the property of PEMAC and will not be returned to the candidate.

Candidates are advised to consult the required text before attempting an examination and review sample test questions.

Exams may be written at your local Teaching Institution if a suitable proctor is available. For a list of Teaching Institutions that offer MMP, go to:
www.pemac.org – Home - Certification

For further information about the Challenge Exam PLAR option, please contact the Education and Professional Development Program Manager at:
pd@pemac.org.

c. Portfolio/Interview:

The candidate is required to submit a comprehensive summary of knowledge, skills and abilities, acquired through work experience and education, which are relevant to the module content. A subject matter expert will review the candidate's training, experience and supporting documentation, and evaluate them against PEMAC's declared learning outcomes for the module. If required, the subject matter expert may interview the candidate by telephone for clarification and/or additional information.

d. Module Instructors:

If you have been approved to teach any module prior to January 1st, 2014 and can provide evidence that you have taught the module at least once, you will qualify for PLAR for that module. If you have been approved to teach a module (including 1 and 8) subsequent to January 1st, 2014, you will qualify for PLAR for that Module.

7. PLAR Fees - all fees per module

PLAR by Exemption / Transfer Credit

Course on PEMAC's approved course equivalency matrix \$25.00

Course not on PEMAC's approved course equivalency matrix \$125.00

PLAR by Challenge Exam: Determined upon application

PLAR by Portfolio/Supplementary Interview: \$125.00

PLAR for Instructors: \$125.00

8. Next Steps

1. Review the module Learning Outcomes in the Maintenance Management Professional Program (MMP) "Course Training Standard" or from PEMAC's Learning Outcomes page to see if your prior learning (formal or informal) is comparable to any of the MMP modules.

2. If you choose to proceed with registering for a PLAR assessment, complete the registration form (found at www.pemac.org - Home Page - Forms) indicating the selected method of assessment (Exemption, Challenge, or Portfolio) and submit it to PEMAC's Education and Professional Development Manager at: pd@pemac.org along with the applicable fee.

If you elect Exemption/Transfer Credit:

Upon receipt of your registration form and payment you will be sent an Exemption Form to complete and return for assessment. You will also need to submit a copy of your academic transcript indicating a grade of 60% or higher, a copy of the detailed course outline for the course you have previously taken, and a copy of your up-to-date resume. Send your documentation to PEMAC's Education and Professional Development Manager at: pd@pemac.org

If you elect Challenge Exam:

Upon receipt of your registration form and payment you will be contacted by the Education and Professional Development Manager to arrange a proctor and time/place for the examination.

If you elect Portfolio/Interview:

Upon receipt of your registration form and payment you will be sent an Experience and Training summary sheet to complete and return for assessment. You may be contacted by a subject matter expert for clarification and/or additional information.

The average length of time to process a PLAR registration and provide results will be 4 - 6 weeks.

Instructor PLAR

If you have taught or been approved to teach a module:

Submit a copy of your instructor approval letter, along with proof of having taught the module (if approved prior to January 1, 2014), together with the PLAR application form and payment.

The average length of time to process an Instructor PLAR application will be 1 - 2 weeks.

9. What if My Application is Unsuccessful?

PEMAC will permit candidates to apply for one re-assessment on any given MMP module. Candidates must complete another registration form (indicating that this is a second attempt) and pay a new assessment fee.

10. For More Information

For more information on the Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition application process please contact the Education and Professional Development Manager at: pd@pemac.org

