

## Prior Learning Assessment

Georgia Southern University offers the student an opportunity to obtain graduate credit by Prior Learning Assessment (PLA). PLA is the means by which university credit can be awarded for learning gains resulting from experiences outside of the traditional university milieu.

A student's eligibility for PLA will be determined by the department chair in collaboration with the subject area program faculty and approved by the College of Graduate Studies. The department will determine the number of semester hours of graduate credit for which a student may request eligibility. A student may be deemed eligible for PLA before or after being admitted to one of the University's graduate programs. Note: *Eligibility for PLA does not guarantee program admission. Program admission and eligibility for PLA are separate and distinct decisions.*

If deemed eligible for PLA, the student must pay a nonrefundable PLA fee equivalent to one graduate credit hour for that program, for each course for which credit is sought to the Cashier's Office in Deal Hall. A receipt will be issued by the Cashier, allowing the student to demonstrate competence by means and within the timeframe acceptable to the faculty of the program from which credit is sought. The purpose of the fee is to reimburse faculty time spent in the development of measures and the evaluation of products.

Graduate credit earned by PLA will be considered resident credit. A grade of "B" or better on any and all assessments is required to receive graduate credit. Graduate credit earned by PLA will be noted as "K" on a student's Georgia Southern University transcript. Program faculty will determine the appropriateness of accepting PLA for their individual degree programs. A maximum of 9 credit hours of PLA may be applied to any program of study. Program faculty may also specify courses to be excluded or included for possible PLA credit.

The procedure for seeking PLA credit is as follows:

1. Student petitions the department chair of the subject area for an opportunity to demonstrate competence in the learning outcomes associated with a particular course or set of courses listed in the University's Graduate Catalog.
2. The department chair or his/her designee will provide guidance to the student regarding how competence must be demonstrated, the acceptable timeframe for demonstrating competence, and the process of review (previously determined by department chairs in conjunction with program faculty members).
3. If the petition is approved, the eligible student will pay a PLA fee and obtain a receipt from the Cashier.
4. The student submits evidence of competence in the form and within the timeframe acceptable to the faculty of the program from which credit is sought. The evidence appropriate for each course under consideration for PLA will be determined by program faculty. Options include (but are not limited to) portfolios, exams, digital badging, or other means consistent with the learning outcomes of the course or courses at the program discretion.
5. The program faculty members will determine acceptable dates of evidence submission for each PLA sought.
6. The student will receive notification of performance results within 20 business days of submitting evidence.

### PLA Subcommittee

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