



JUSTICE INSTITUTE
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

Policy No:

Responsibility: Director, Student Services,
Registrar

Credit Transfer, Residency and Prior Learning Assessment and Qualification Recognition Policy

Approved by: Board of Governors

Effective: February 24, 2005

Revisions:

Scope

This policy applies to all JIBC programs.

Context

Students and the public benefit when qualifications at one institution are recognized at other institutions and given credit toward credentials at that institution, and when non-traditional learning is assessed and, where appropriate, awarded credit toward credentials. However, in some cases institutions may offer unique learning opportunities that they wish to guarantee for their students, and in such cases will not allow transfer credit from other institutions or from prior learning assessment. Recognition of learning from other sources for the purpose of granting credentials must, therefore, balance the value of unique learning experiences with the value of portability and transferability.

Definitions

**Prior Learning
Assessment and
Qualification
Recognition**

Any process used for evaluating a student's competence resulting from previous education or relevant career experience. Methods for prior learning assessment and qualification recognition must be valid and reliable and may include challenge exams, evaluation of student portfolios, evaluation of course work completed at other institutions or a combination of these or similar methods. (Sometimes referred to by the acronym PLAR.)

Credit Transfer

Course or program credit that is granted by one institution to a student for completion of courses or programs at another institution or organization. Credit transfer arrangements may be one-directional or two-directional and are established through formal or informal articulation processes amongst organizations. An articulation process may be conducted between any two institutions or organizations, or, for British Columbia post-secondary institutions, through the BC Council on Admissions and Transfers (BCCAT) amongst any of the BC post-secondary institution members. Credit transfer is always granted solely at the discretion of the receiving institution.

Policy

The Board of Governors of the Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC) recognizes the importance of credit and equivalent academic recognition to the success of students in accomplishing their educational goals. Accordingly, the JIBC will facilitate post secondary education credit transfer between and amongst institutions and relevant educational organizations.

The policy is to include the development of JIBC curriculum that will be accepted by other post secondary organizations for credit transfer. The processes to be employed shall include the full range of acceptable methodologies including advanced standing, course equivalency, and prior learning assessment.

Bearing in mind the importance of preserving the educational reputation and standards of the JIBC, the policy shall specify the percentage of program credits to comprise study taken at the JIBC.

List of Operational Policies and Procedures Supporting this Policy

| Operational Policies and Procedures | Responsibility | Date Enacted | Date Revised |
|--|----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Credit Transfer, Residency and Prior Learning Assessment and Qualification Recognition | Management Committee | Sept. 21, 2004 | |
| JIBC Divisional PLAR Procedures | Divisional Directors | | Sept. 21, 2004 |

Selected References

[British Columbia Council on Admissions and Transfers](#)

British Columbia Council on Admissions and Transfers. (Draft 2004). *Transfer Friendly Course Outline Template*

Credit Transfer

To help students attain their academic and employment goals, the JIBC welcomes credit transfer from other post-secondary institutions and other organizations where course or program equivalencies have been established. The JIBC works toward developing courses and programs that will be accepted by other post-secondary institutions and other organizations for credit transfer or course equivalency.

The JIBC is a full participant in the credit transfer system of the BC Council on Admissions and Transfers (BCCAT) and works with that system to facilitate transfer agreements that can benefit BC students.

Formal credit transfer and course equivalency agreements with post-secondary institutions and with other organizations and accrediting bodies outside of the BCCAT system are encouraged.

Equivalencies may be established on a course-to-course basis or as a block transfer of credits.

Prior Learning Assessment

The JIBC is committed to meeting the career development and learning needs of its unique and diverse student population. The JIBC recognizes that valuable learning often results from work experience or learning outside of the traditional post-secondary system and that valid and reliable prior learning assessment and qualifications recognition can benefit students.

The JIBC supports flexible prior learning assessment and qualifications recognition that meets students' needs, is consistent with JIBC policies and standards, is acceptable to employers and professional bodies, and is developed in a manner that is consistent with established practice in the post-secondary system.

Residency

The JIBC encourages distance learning so physical residency for a specified number of hours or credits is not a requirement for most programs, but in some cases the Institute may require that some courses be completed with a cohort of other students in a face-to-face environment.

Allowable Credits

For any JIBC degree path or professional path program, up to 50% of program credits may be earned through a combination of prior learning assessment and credit transfer from approved courses and programs at other post secondary institutions or other organizations.

For some degree programs, up to 75% of program credits can be transferred from other recognized programs.

Divisions may set more restrictive allowances for prior learning assessment and qualification recognition where considered necessary to maintain the quality, integrity or financial viability of a program.