

Credit for Prior Learning

Prior Learning Assessment Portfolio Options

I. Purpose: Students can accelerate their degree completion by turning real-world experience into academic credit through two distinct portfolio pathways. Depending on your career background and academic goals, you can choose between a Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Portfolio for flexible upper-division elective credits, or a Focused Portfolio to satisfy specific major requirements.

II. Portfolio Options:

- **Focused Portfolio:** This option is ideal for professionals who have built deep expertise in a specific field through hands-on experience, professional training sessions, and in-service education programs. Credits earned through this option are specific to departments and will help fulfill required coursework in an academic program.
- **Portfolio-Based Option:** This option is ideal for professionals pursuing a Bachelor of University Studies and have a wide range of personal and professional experiences. Credits earned through this portfolio are upper division elective courses that count towards graduation totals. This provides a more flexible approach to earning credit.

III. Restrictions and Requirements:

- **Eligibility:** PLA Portfolios are only permitted for courses in which the student has no previous record (prior registrations allowable if course was dropped by the No Record Drop deadline in a given term). Graduate students are not eligible for Portfolio Assessment.
- **Registration:** Students must work with the Degree Completion Coordinator through the Career and Advising Center (<https://career-advising.ndsu.edu/>), and register for UNIV 490: Prior Learning Portfolio.
- **Academic Credit:**
 - 12 undergraduate resident credits may be earned for the Portfolio-Based Option
 - 15 undergraduate resident credits may be earned for the Focused Portfolio Option
- **Grades:** Portfolio Assessments will be graded on Pass/Fail basis only.