



Policy Name	<i>Recognition of Prior Learning</i>		
Policy #	AD 5.0	Category	Admissions & Student Records
Policy Owner	Vice President Academic	Effective Date	September 1, 2026
Policy Lead	AVP Student Progression & Registrar	Next Review Date	June 5, 2031
Approved by	Executive Management Committee	Approval Date	June 5, 2026

1.0 Policy Statement

This policy establishes the framework for recognizing prior learning through transfer credit and prior learning assessment and recognition (PLAR). It also sets principles that govern the establishment of formal articulation agreement pathways into and out of NAIT.

The goals of recognition of prior learning (RPL) are to support student mobility, enhance access to programs at NAIT and at other post-secondary institutions, and reduce duplication of learning.

2.0 Scope

This policy applies to all applicants and students who seek recognition for prior learning through PLAR for credit or admission, and to students in ministry-approved programs seeking transfer credit.

3.0 Definitions

Term	Definition
Articulation Agreement	A formal agreement between institutions that defines how credits transfer or how credits will be awarded based on prior learning.
Mobility	The ability of students to transition between post-secondary programs of study or (re)enter post-secondary studies after a gap in their education.
Pathway	A formal or informal route that a student follows from one program or institution to another program or institution.
Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)	A process that evaluates non-formal or informal learning for credit or admission.
Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)	A general term for processes that assess and recognize learning acquired outside of NAIT credit programming.
Shelf Life	A limit on the amount of time that may have elapsed since a student completed a course or experience for it to qualify for RPL.
Transfer Credit	Credit granted for post-secondary level, credit coursework completed through a recognized institution and applied towards a NAIT degree, diploma, or certificate.



4.0 Guiding Principles

- 4.1 NAIT recognizes that learning occurs in many forms—through formal education (both credit and non-credit), work experience, and other life activities.
- 4.2 Student mobility is strengthened through the intentional development of pathways that support entry, progression, and further studies.
- 4.3 By advancing accessible RPL practices, NAIT seeks to attract learners and align with nationally recognized best practices, including the Association of Registrars of the Universities and Colleges of Canada (ARUCC) and the Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions & Transfer (PCCAT) Transfer Guide and the Pan-Canadian Protocol on the Transferability of University Credits.
- 4.4 RPL processes respect the academic integrity of NAIT credentials and of learning obtained outside of NAIT.
- 4.5 RPL processes are administered centrally through the Office of the Registrar, with subject matter expertise for evaluations provided by other areas, as required.
- 4.6 RPL processes are fair, transparent, timely, and consistently applied.
- 4.7 RPL decisions are based on documented evidence related to learning outcomes to support each student's future success in their NAIT program.
- 4.8 NAIT recognizes that curriculum and discipline-specific tools evolve. To ensure that learning remains relevant to current program standards, NAIT may set a maximum age (shelf life) for external coursework to be eligible for transfer or for work/life experience to be considered towards a prior learning assessment.
- 4.9 Both NAIT and students have responsibilities in RPL processes so that these guiding principles can be applied.

5.0 Other Related Documents

- 5.1 AD 5.1 Transfer Credit Procedure
- 5.2 [Association of Registrars of the Universities and Colleges of Canada \(ARUCC\) and the Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions & Transfer \(PCCAT\)](#)

Document History

Date	Action/ Change