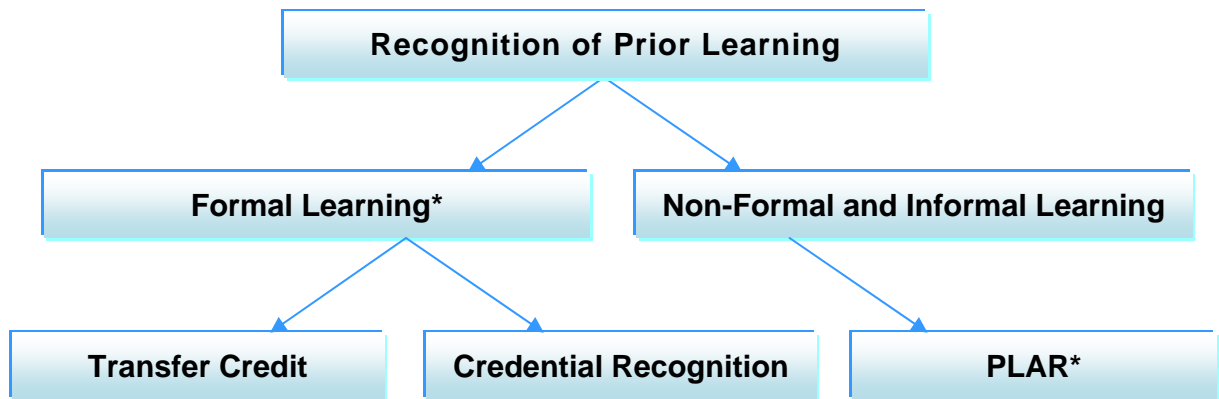


# Recognition of Prior Learning



**Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)**—a broad umbrella concept which includes three types of assessment processes that are used to evaluate the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that people have acquired in their lives. There are three types of learning:

- **Formal learning**—credit courses and programs offered at post-secondary institutions
- **Non-formal learning**—non-credit courses, on-the-job training, and professional workshops
- **Informal learning**—knowledge and skills acquired through life and work experience

The three processes for assessing and recognizing these forms of learning are:

- **Transfer credit**—awarding credit at one institution for courses completed at another institution (formal learning assessment).
- **Credential recognition**—recognizing a completed in-province, out-of-province, or international certificate, diploma, or degree (formal learning assessment).
- **Prior learning assessment and recognition (PLAR)**—assessing and recognizing a person’s knowledge and skills, acquired through non-formal and informal learning, in relation to a certain goal (for example, receiving credit in a post-secondary program, meeting professional licensure/certification requirements, or obtaining employment). A PLAR assessment may include one or a combination of the following:
  - Written challenge exam
  - Oral exam or interview
  - Performance assessment
  - Product assessment
  - Portfolio assessment

\*In some cases where transfer credit is not awarded for formal learning, students may choose to present that learning for assessment as part of a PLAR application, where applicable.