

Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)

DeVry University offers students the opportunity to earn college credit for prior learning by means of a Prior Learning Assessment (PLA), submitted by the student in the form of a PLA portfolio. Credit is awarded for demonstrated knowledge and application of that knowledge; it is not awarded for experience alone. Submission, evaluation and documentation is administered by the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) as part of its LearningCounts program. All PLA portfolios must be submitted through the LearningCounts program. Students can access resources and guidance for submitting a PLA portfolio at www.learningcounts.org.

Prior to submitting a PLA portfolio, eligible students must register for and complete an online, self-paced, non-credit portfolio development course administered through LearningCounts. The course guides students through preparation, compilation and submission of a PLA portfolio. The nonrefundable course fee covers evaluation of the student’s first portfolio. After completion of the one-time portfolio development course, future portfolio submissions are subject to a portfolio assessment fee only, paid per submission.

PLA Eligibility

To be eligible for PLA credit, students must:

- Demonstrate basic English proficiency in one of the following ways:
 - Standard placement in English by means of DVU-administered testing, eligible ACT or SAT English scores or acceptable grades in qualifying college-level coursework;
 - Transfer of academic credit equivalent to ENGL112; or
 - Successful completion of ENGL112.
- Reside in the United States. (This includes international students on an F-1 visa; however, PLA hours do not count toward the required minimum number of credit hours to be considered full-time.)
- Submit a PLA application to their student support or academic advisor while enrolled and attending classes as matriculating students in undergraduate coursework for the current session and prior to the final term of enrollment. Note: Students who previously attended DeVry and are not currently enrolled are eligible to apply for PLA.
- Submit transcripts from all previously attended post-secondary institutions and request transfer credit prior to submitting the PLA application.
- Verify with an academic advisor that the course(s) for which PLA credit is being sought applies to their program requirements.
- Have satisfied DeVry University residency requirements or have enough required DeVry coursework remaining to satisfy residency requirements after PLA credit has been awarded.



PLA Policies

Students pursuing PLA credit must adhere to the following University policies:

- The first portfolio must be submitted no later than six months from the date of payment for the portfolio development class.
- Prior to submitting each additional portfolio, students must submit a PLA Portfolio Request form to their student support or academic advisor; students pay an additional portfolio assessment fee for each subsequent portfolio submitted and have six months from the date of payment to submit the portfolio.
- Students may not seek PLA credit for:
 - A DeVry University course previously attempted, regardless of the grade or designator assigned to the attempt.
 - A DeVry University course in which they are currently enrolled.
 - A course equivalent to one for which they have already earned credit.
- PLA credit does not waive any prerequisite or corequisite requirements associated with the credited course; prerequisite and corequisite course credits must be earned independently.
- PLA portfolio credit is treated as proficiency credit and does not count toward the residency requirement; the maximum allowable number of PLA credits is determined by the program residency requirement.
- Partial credit is not awarded for portfolio submissions.
- The maximum number of allowable PLA portfolio submissions for a given course is two.
- PLA fees are nonrefundable, paid directly to LearningCounts and are as follows:
 - Portfolio development course and first portfolio assessment – \$254
 - Each additional portfolio assessment – \$125
- Students may not use financial assistance to cover the LearningCounts cost associated with PLA portfolio submissions.
- Students are responsible for ensuring they are not enrolled in a course for which they intend to seek PLA credit. DeVry will not refund the tuition at a later date to students who pay for such a course.

Note: Students enrolled at a Nevada location may receive a maximum of 10 percent of the total semester credit hours required in their degree program through PLA. The maximum for students enrolled at a Texas location is 15 percent.