

Standardized Introductory Computer Courses

<p>What is PLAR?</p>	<p>Prior Learning Assessment (PLAR) is an evaluation through a valid and reliable process, by qualified specialist(s), of the knowledge and skills that have been learned through non-formal education, training or experience to determine the equivalency for credit to a SIAST course.</p>
<p>What can PLAR do for me?</p>	<p>PLAR reduces redundant learning and provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition for skills and knowledge acquired through prior learning • Portable credentials • Increased employment opportunities
<p>How do I know if I'm a candidate?</p>	<p>The Standardized Introductory Computer courses support many SIAST programs. These courses provide instruction in Basic Computer Operation, Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, and Web publishing. If you have recent (within the last 3 years) successful work experience in this area and can provide evidence of your skills and knowledge to align with learning outcomes within the Standardized Introductory Computer courses, you may be a PLAR candidate.</p>
<p>What are the PLAR options?</p>	<p>We currently have PLAR-ready course level challenges and block assessments available for this program.</p> <p>A candidate guide has been developed for this program and is accessible through Standardized Introductory Computer Curriculum Resource Site.</p>
<p>How many courses are available by PLAR?</p>	<p>All of the individual Standardized Introductory Computer courses are PLAR- ready and block assessments are available for some of the courses.</p> <p>For referral to the appropriate faculty, call SIAST and ask to speak to a PLAR advisor/counsellor at: 1-866-467-4278 or 1-866-goSIAST.</p>
<p>When are PLAR challenges offered?</p>	<p>Please contact the program head of your specific program for information regarding application deadlines.</p>
<p>How much does PLAR cost?</p>	<p>For a listing of specific PLAR fees visit the PLAR inventory database and select your program of study from the first dropdown list of programs or search the course name and code using the "keyword search" option.</p>

Standardized Introductory Computer Courses - Continued

<p>Are there methods other than PLAR to gain SIAST course credits for prior learning?</p>	<p>Transfer Credit SIAST may grant a transfer credit for course(s) from a recognized credit-granting post-secondary educational institution. The training must be similar in content, objectives and evaluation standards to SIAST training.</p> <p>Major changes in program content may require that the student repeat or seek prior learning assessment recognition for the course for which transfer credit is requested.</p> <p>For specific information and guidelines regarding Transfer of Credit, contact a SIAST Educational Counsellor or refer to the SIAST website:</p> <p>SIAST - Transfer Credit</p> <p>If your training does not qualify for credit transfer you may ask for a review of your learning through the PLAR process.</p> <p>Equivalent Course Credit You may receive credit for a specific SIAST course(s) on the basis of previous credit in another SIAST course(s) with similar content.</p> <p>If the curriculum no longer qualifies for equivalency, a student may request PLAR for the course(s) if additional learning has occurred to meet the change in the current learning outcomes.</p> <p>Articulated Credit An Articulation Agreement exists for the Introductory Standardized Computer courses between SIAST and Saskatchewan Learning. Articulation is a process where students earn post-secondary credit for certain courses they take in high school.</p> <p>Visit this link to determine if you are eligible to qualify the for the articulation agreement between SIAST and the Saskatchewan Learning Practical and Applied Arts Curriculum: http://programs.siastr.sk.ca/cst/standardizedcurriculum/Articulation.htm</p>
<p>What do I need to prepare for a PLAR assessment?</p>	<p>Credit is earned for proven knowledge and skills. You will be assessed on your competence in the learning outcomes for each course. For more information on the learning outcomes, criteria, and the form of assessment please refer to the Candidate Guide on the Standardized Introductory Computer Curriculum Resource Site.</p>
<p>How do I get started?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the 10-step PLAR Process at http://www.gosiastr.com/stuservices/plar/PDF/PLARprocessFchart02.pdf 2. Call SIAST and ask to speak to the PLAR advisor/counsellor assigned to the Standardized Computer Courses at 1-866-467-4278 or 1-866-goSIAST.