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Human Resources  
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CC: Prior Learning Assessment  
Faculty Senate

From: Sally Meredith, Chief of Staff for Academic Affairs

Date: March 8, 2017

RE: Approved university-wide academic policy on Residency Requirements for Prior Learning Assessment

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The President, on the Provost's recommendation, has approved a university-wide academic policy for Prior Learning Assessment Residency Requirements

This policy was brought forth by the Prior Learning Assessment Program, in conjunction with the Provost. It was reviewed and recommended for implementation by the Faculty Senate at the February, 2017 meeting. The full policy is appended.

The effective date is July 1, 2017 to coincide with the 2017-2018 course catalogs.

Please update all necessary websites, systems, reports, and other materials to reflect this new academic policy. Deans, please inform all academic programs within your colleges.

## Prior Learning Assessment Residency Policy

The University of Southern Maine (USM) recognizes and values the college-level learning students acquire outside of the traditional college classroom. The Office for Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) assists in the evaluation of that learning and its application to the student's degree program. The following policy outlines how PLA credits impact the student's residency requirement<sup>1</sup> at USM.

- Advanced Placement (AP) credit
  - AP credits do not count toward a student's residency requirement.
- International Baccalaureate (IB) credit
  - IB credits do not count toward a student's residency requirement.
- CLEP Exam credits
  - CLEP credits do not count toward a student's residency requirement.
- DSST Exam credits
  - DSST credits do not count toward a student's residency requirement.
- UExcel Exam credits
  - UExcel credits do not count toward a student's residency requirement.
- NYU Language Exam credits
  - NYU language exam credits do not count toward a student's residency requirement.
- BYU FLATS Language Exam credits
  - BYU FLATS credits do not count toward a student's residency requirement.
- External Training/Credential Review credits
  - External training and credential credits do not count toward a student's residency requirement.
- Military Training credits
  - Military training credits do not count toward a student's residency requirement.
- Challenge Exam credits
  - Challenge exams must meet the following criteria in order for the credits earned to count toward residency:
    - Students completing the exams must be matriculated
    - Exams must be created by and evaluated by USM faculty
- Academic Portfolio credits
  - Academic portfolios must meet the following criteria in order for the credits earned to count toward residency:
    - Students must be matriculated
    - Students must complete the online portfolio development course
    - Portfolios must be evaluated by USM faculty and/or the PLA director

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<sup>1</sup>USM expects that students complete at least 30 of their last 45 credits at USM in order to meet the residency requirement.

No PLA opportunity will impact a student's GPA in any way, regardless of the score a student earns on an exam. No credits earned from PLA at another institution will count toward the residency requirement for USM. Those credits earned from other University of Maine System institutions through prior learning assessment do not count toward the residency requirement. Exceptions to the PLA residency policy must be approved by the Dean's Office of the College in which the student's major resides.