

# Get credit for what you've learned!

## Prior Learning Assessment and the LOS Major

### HOW IT WORKS

If you have college-level learning from work, volunteer, or life experience, you may be able to use Prior Learning Assessment to earn academic credit at USM. In the LOS major, students typically use learning from management, human resources, conflict resolution, law enforcement, and informal leadership experiences as a basis for earning credit.

In order to earn credit, all learning must be demonstrated through one of the following processes:

- **Credential Review**

- Students who have completed Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLETP) at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy can earn 6 credits of LOS 3XX (LOS electives), in addition to 9 credits of GEL 1XX (general electives). Students who have completed full-time law-enforcement training in other states should contact the PLA Office to have their program reviewed for credit.
- Students who have passed the SHRM-CP or the SPHR exam can earn credit for LOS 312 Human Resource Management (3 cr). Credit will only be granted for one of these certifications. Students must submit proof of the credential to the PLA office.
- Credential review credit is posted to your transcript at no charge.

- **DSST Exam**

Students may take standardized multiple-choice exams for the following courses:

- LOS 302 Organizational Behavior
- LOS 312 Human Resources Management
- MAT 120 Statistics (equivalent to LOS 120 Statistics for Informed Decision Making)

In addition to any fees charged by the testing company, USM charges a \$30 administration fee per exam. These charges are assessed whether a student passes the exam or not.

- **Academic Portfolio**

Students with appropriate learning from experience can gain Leadership faculty approval to complete up to 6 hours of LOS credit through a written portfolio process. Before beginning a portfolio, students must meet with the PLA office to enroll in the required, free, non-credit bearing, online portfolio development workshop.

Students will also need to access the textbooks listed on the relevant course syllabi.

Undergraduate portfolios are charged \$50 per credit hour for the final LOS faculty evaluation.

**Students must complete LOS 300 and 350 with a grade of B- or better and must pass LOS 299 before beginning academic portfolio work within the major.**

For more information, please visit: <https://usm.maine.edu/prior-learning-assessment>



Contact us at [priorlearningusm@maine.edu](mailto:priorlearningusm@maine.edu)

**PLEASE NOTE:** LOS 299, 300, 350, the LOS practicum, and the LOS 400 Capstone may NOT be completed through PLA.