

# Get credit for what you've learned!

## Prior Learning Assessment and School of Nursing

### 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 School of Nursing, students typically use learning from previous work, non-credit academic or volunteer experience to earn credit.

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

- **Standardized Exam**

Students may take standardized multiple-choice exams remotely or on the Portland campus for the following required courses:

- **College-Level Examination Program (CLEP)**

- CHY 113 Principles of Chemistry I
    - HRD 200 Multicultural Human Development
    - PSY 100 Introduction to Psychology
    - SOC 100 Introduction to Sociology

- **Dantes Standardized Subject Tests (DSST)**

- HRD 200 Multicultural Human Development
    - MAT 120 Introduction to Statistics

- **Challenge Exam**

Students with the appropriate background in Genetics and/or Pharmacology may be offered a USM faculty designed challenge exam for NUR 424 Clinically-Applied Genetics and/or NUR 302 Pharmacology. Student who feel they have the necessary learning to pass either or both of these exams (for example, if they have successfully earned credit for BIO 201 Genetics or have successfully completed previous Pharmacology courses) should fill out the Prior Learning Review form at the link below:

<https://sites.google.com/maine.edu/usm-undergraduate-nursing/students/prior-learning>

Students who have been approved will be charged \$100.00 prior to taking each exam.

- **Academic Portfolio**

Students in the traditional Nursing program with appropriate learning from experience may gain Nursing faculty approval to complete some degree requirements through a written portfolio process. Most often, School of Nursing portfolios are completed for one of the two required Community Partnerships courses (NUR 339 or 341). This process is reserved for students who have extensive learning from community-based work or volunteer projects. Experience as a CNA or EMT is not sufficient. Accelerated Nursing Students are not eligible for Community Partnership portfolios. Before beginning a portfolio students must meet with the PLA office to enroll in the required, non-credit bearing, free online portfolio workshop. Students who wish to complete a portfolio for Nursing degree requirements should contact Netty Provost at [netty.provost@maine.edu](mailto:netty.provost@maine.edu).

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



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