

## Is it for you?

# Youth Care Worker Certificate

<p><b>What is PLAR?</b></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><b>What can PLAR do for me?</b></p>	<p>PLAR reduces redundant learning and provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recognition for skills and knowledge acquired through prior learning</li> <li>▪ Portable credentials</li> <li>▪ Increased employment opportunities</li> </ul>
<p><b>How do I know if I'm a candidate?</b></p>	<p>If you have 2 years successful experience within the last 5 years in the youth care field, and have learned the skills and knowledge for <b>one or more</b> of the Youth Care Worker Certificate courses, you may apply to be assessed for each applicable course. <a href="#">See course for additional criteria specific to that course.</a></p>
<p><b>What are the PLAR options?</b></p>	<p>You must be registered in a SIAST Youth Care Worker Certificate program to receive PLAR services. Admission standards for programs will still apply. See admissions policy in the <a href="#">SIAST calendar</a> or <a href="#">website</a>.</p> <p><b>Option A: Individual course challenge</b> If you have previously learned the skills and knowledge for one or more of the continuing care aide courses, you may apply to be assessed for each applicable course.</p> <p><b>Option B: Block practicum assessment</b> If you have 1020 hrs (minimum) of directly related work experience (to the specific nature of the practicum credit being requested) in a continuous period of 24 months for the same agency and have the skills and knowledge for a block of cumulative courses, then you may be assessed on a blocks of practicum courses. Successful completion of the block assessment will result in credit for all classes associated with that block.</p>
<p><b>How many courses are available by PLAR?</b></p>	<p>Currently we have 19 certificate courses with PLAR challenges available. There is no limit. You may challenge as many of these courses as you are able to prove prior skills and knowledge through assessment.</p>
<p><b>When are PLAR challenges offered?</b></p>	<p>PLAR challenges are currently being offered September 1 through May 30.</p>

## Youth Care Worker Certificate - continued

<p><b>How much does PLAR cost?</b></p>	<p>To find fees for your course(s) visit the <a href="#">PLAR inventory database</a> and select your program of study from the first dropdown list of programs or search the course name and code using the “<b>keyword search</b>” option.</p> <p>For assistance, call SIAST and ask to speak to the PLAR advisor/counsellor at: 1-866-467-4278 or 1-866-goSIAST.</p>
<p><b>Are there methods other than PLAR to gain SIAST course credits for prior learning?</b></p>	<p><b>Transfer Credit</b></p> <p>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>Any transfer credit agreements with this program are listed in the candidate guide.</p> <p>For specific information and guidelines regarding transfer of credit, contact a SIAST educational counsellor or refer to the SIAST website:</p> <p><a href="http://www.siastr.sk.ca/stuservices/plar/transfer_credit.shtml">http://www.siastr.sk.ca/stuservices/plar/transfer_credit.shtml</a></p> <hr/> <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><b>Equivalent course credit</b></p> <p>The Youth Care Worker program may recognize 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><b>What do I need to prepare for a PLAR assessment?</b></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 Youth Care Worker Certificate PLAR candidate guide &amp; self-audit package.</p>
<p><b>How do I get started?</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review the 10-step PLAR process at <a href="http://www.siastr.sk.ca/stuservices/plar/PDF/PLARprocessFchart02.pdf">http://www.siastr.sk.ca/stuservices/plar/PDF/PLARprocessFchart02.pdf</a></li> <li>2. Call SIAST and ask to speak to the PLAR advisor/counsellor assigned to the Youth Care Worker Certificate program at: 1-866-goSIAST.</li> </ol>