Prior Learning Assessment

The Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) provides an opportunity for students to receive college credit for experiences comparable to college level knowledge and skills via documentation and demonstration of mastery of subject matter.

PLA is currently available in the Office of Professional Studies (OPS). The five programs include:

- MS in Applied Nutrition
- MS Community & School Health
- MS Respiratory Care
- MS Health & Human Performance
- MS Health Information Technology

Canisius College Policies and Procedures:

1. Students must be accepted into a program of study before requesting PLA credit.
2. Students must declare intent to apply for PLA credit at the beginning of their program.
3. PLA credit may not be used as the final course credit for the degree. Certain course units may not be completed by PLA.
4. Maximum possible credits not to exceed 20% of the credits in the program.
5. Approval of PLA credit will be granted by individual program director and/or the Director of OPS.
6. Current acceptable forms of PLA are:
   - Challenge exams composed and graded by faculty members.
   - Previously earned licenses and credentials as related to program specialties.
   All earned licenses and/or credentials are subject to approval by Director of OPS, and/or Dean of School of Education and Human Services.

All credit awards by faculty review will meet Council for the Advancement of Experiential Learning (CAEL) Standards.