



## Prior Learning Assessments & Transfer Course Policy

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VCMT's Prior Learning Assessment ("PLA") policy provides individuals who may have received significant relevant instruction elsewhere with an opportunity to have their relevant learning assessed by the Director of Admissions and, if successful, counted as credit towards completion of the program. VCMT's Director of Admissions assesses the skills, knowledge and overall readiness of candidates seeking admission into VCMT's massage therapy program.

All PLA applications must be submitted and completed prior to starting the program at VCMT. A PLA is not permitted once training has commenced.

### PLA FOR STUDENTS TRANSFERRING FROM OTHER PROGRAMS

VCMT may grant **up to a maximum of 50% credit** toward program completion with the balance of a student's program completed at VCMT.

Students wishing to transfer from an accredited British Columbia massage therapy college may transfer credits by submitting PLA fees, an official college transcript, and course outline(s) (including the course objectives) of the courses they completed. They must have received 75% or higher in the course(s) for which they wish to receive credits. Once the transcript and course outline(s) have been reviewed and approved by the Director of Admissions and/or Senior Administrator, the student may be required to write the final exam(s) used by VCMT to establish competency in the desired courses to determine if the student will be given full credit for the course. Exams may be academic, practical, or both depending on the course. The assessment methods used by VCMT are criterion-referenced: the applicant's knowledge and skills are compared to pre-set standards, allowing an objective determination of their prior learning. The student must successfully obtain a standing of 75% or higher in the exam in order to receive credit for the course. Each student will be assessed on a case by case basis.

Previous clinical internship hours from massage colleges and practice may be accepted to fulfil VCMT's clinical internship credit requirements subject to VCMT's review.

### OTHER ASSESSMENTS

VCMT may conduct other types of assessment that include, but are not limited to, reference and criminal record checks, work records, skill validations, training records, course outlines, content descriptions, and direct contact with prior learning agencies as part of the PLA.

### COST OF A PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT

VCMT charges an application fee for the processing of all PLA applications. This fee is used to cover the administrative fees and instructor's time to conduct a student's PLA and is unrelated to the amount of 'credit' awarded. **All fees paid are non-refundable and non-transferable.** The following fees are charged based on the PLA requirements:

- PLA Application fees: \$250
- PLA Written exams \$100
- PLA Oral practical exams \$150

PLA processing times vary, depending on the number of courses/credits being reviewed. In general, a typical PLA process takes up to 3 weeks to complete.

To apply for PLA, please contact the VCMT Admissions department to arrange an appointment.