



VCMT Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)

& Transfer Course Policies

VCMT recognizes the diversity of individuals and follows a PLA policy to assess the skills, attitudes, and knowledge of candidates seeking admission into the massage therapy program.

PLA provides individuals who may have attained significant learning elsewhere with an opportunity to have their relevant learning recognized and counted towards qualification in their chosen area of study. Individuals may request that their prior learning be assessed to determine if it is equivalent to program curriculum. As a result, credit may be given for courses.

NOTE

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 Transfer Students from British Columbia Accredited Massage Therapy Schools

VCMT may grant up to a **maximum of 50% credit** for a program. Students wishing to transfer from a BC massage therapy school will be required to complete the balance of courses through scheduled classes at VCMT.

Students wishing to transfer from an accredited British Columbia massage therapy school may transfer credits by submitting PLA fees, an official school transcript, and course outline(s) (including the course objectives) of the courses they completed. They must have received 75% or higher in the course they wish to receive credits for. Once the transcript and course outline(s) have been approved by the Program Director and/or the Director of Operations, the student may be required to write the final exam(s) used by the VCMT courses to determine if the student will be given full credit for the course. Each student will be assessed on a case by case basis.

PLA Academic Courses or Massage Education Outside of BC

VCMT requires applicants wishing to transfer massage education credits from outside provinces to first undergo a comprehensive PLA by the College of Massage Therapy of British Columbia (CMTBC). The CMTBC may recommend that the applicant upgrade their training or graduate from a recognized BC massage school in order to apply for registration exams. Once this is complete, VCMT can recommend that the student either takes courses to upgrade or perform a PLA to determine placement in transferring to the program.

Candidates wishing to apply for PLA for courses from schools outside of BC are required to submit PLA fees, an official transcript and the course outlines (from the courses at the time they were completed), including the course objectives. The student must have achieved a final grade of 75% or higher in a course in order to receive PLA credits.

The assessment methods used by VCMT are criterion-referenced: the applicant's knowledge and skills are compared to pre-set standards, allowing a more objective determination of their prior learning. Once the official course transcripts and outlines have been evaluated and approved, the student may be asked to challenge the relevant final exam(s). Exams may be academic, practical, or both depending on the course. The student must successfully obtain a standing of 75% or higher in the exam in order to receive credit for the course. Previous clinical internship hours from massage schools and practice outside of BC will not be accepted to fulfil VCMT's clinical

internship credit requirements.

If a student has received credit for a course, they may choose to audit the course. Students are not required to pay additional tuition for audited courses.

Other

VCMT may from time to time 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.

The Cost of PLA

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 assess if one's PLA and is not related to the amount of 'credit' awarded. **All fees paid are non-refundable and non-transferable.** The following fees will be charged as per PLA assessment requirements:

PLA Application fees: \$250.00

PLA Written exams \$100

PLA Oral practical exams \$150

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

To apply for PLA, please contact the VCMT admissions department to set up an appointment.