

Weighing PLAR 2001 with the Traditional Portfolio Route



PLAR 2001 Overview

The course has been intentionally crafted to support students in completing their portfolios under the gentle guidance of an instructor. This step-by-step process takes place within a community of peers, offering students the opportunity to exchange ideas and gain new perspectives as they share their learning journeys. The environment is designed to be supportive and encouraging. Key themes are woven throughout the course, including the distinction between experience and learning, how adults learn most effectively, and the importance of reflection. In addition to developing a portfolio, students who successfully complete the course will earn three academic credits.

Traditional Route Overview

PLAR Advisors would offer guidance on portfolio creation and constructive feedback on students' drafts; however, the process remains largely an independent endeavor. The main tools to assist with portfolio creation would be an in-depth student handbook and resources on Moodle such as examples, templates, etc.

Looking for more information?

PLAR 2001 Course: <https://www.tru.ca/distance/courses/plar2001.html>

PLAR Pathways: <https://www.tru.ca/distance/plar-ol/plar-process.html>

Comparison

	PLAR 2001 Course	Traditional Portfolio Route
Delivery Method	Online, paced course	Self-paced project
Timeline	14 weeks	Up to 24 weeks (can be completed sooner)
Content Covered	The course covers: • Exploring eight PLAR competencies • Understanding adult learning theories and multiple ways of knowing • Differentiating between experience and learning • Developing a competency-based portfolio • Engaging in reflective practice and self-assessment	The student handbook and other resources more briefly cover: • Experience vs. Learning • Types of Learning • Portfolio Process Expectations • Descriptions and examples of portfolio components • Brief activities to surface learning • Tools for writing reflective learning statements • Competency criteria
Assessments	Course: Five assessments leading to a completed portfolio. Portfolio (optional assessment step after course completion): Portfolio submission + Discussion of Learning with two Assessors.	Portfolio submission + Discussion of Learning with two Assessors
Credits	3 credits for successful course completion and 6+ credits for portfolio assessment (credits awarded depend on available elective space).	6+ credits for portfolio assessment (credits awarded depend on available elective space).
Cost	• \$837.62 – in BC/Yukon • \$946.70 – outside BC/Yukon • \$1661.15 – international • Additional flat fee of \$350 for portfolio assessment.	\$750 flat fee
Support	Peer interaction in cohort and instructor guidance	Support from PLAR Advisors to answer questions, review work, and give feedback and suggestions.
Resources	Open Education Resource textbook by Bell & Ives (2023) - Introduction to Reflective Practice and PLAR Portfolio Building.	In-depth student handbook + Moodle resources (examples, templates, more), and support from the PLAR Advisors.
Best for	Ideal for individuals who prefer structure, benefit from peer support, are new to reflective writing, and interested in foundational learning theories.	Ideal for independent, self-directed individuals who need flexibility and can manage their time and deadlines effectively.