

# **GUIDELINES FOR ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS/PREREQUISITES OF OPEN LEARNING COURSES/PROGRAMS**

**APPROVED BY PCOL ON 25 NOVEMBER 2009:**

## **Principles:**

TRU-OL is committed to providing opportunities for success to all of its students. These opportunities are evidenced by TRU-OL's commitment to offering courses and programs to students that remove the traditional barriers of time and place. TRU-OL also acknowledges its legislative mandate to meet the open learning needs of British Columbians by limiting prerequisites and admission requirements (i.e. offering open courses and programs). These minimal prerequisites and admission requirements are based on the understanding that TRU-OL students are adults and as such are best able to judge their potential for success in a course or program. To facilitate informed decisions by its students, TRU-OL provides recommended prerequisites and admission requirements to guide students in their decisions and only introduce required prerequisites, or admission requirements, in exceptional circumstances. The purpose of these guidelines is to clarify what may be an exceptional circumstance that would make prerequisites and/or admission requirements appropriate.

When TRU-OL will accept admission and/or prerequisites for courses and/or programs:

1. If, during a lab or practicum in the program, the health and/or safety of the student, or those around the student, is more at risk when the prerequisite/admission requirement is not met (e.g. immunization, criminal record check). This would apply to both program admission requirements and to course prerequisite requirements.
2. When external (3rd party) program accreditation/approval bodies require admissions criteria of our programs (e.g. All nursing programs must be approved by the CRNBC and therefore must conform to CRNBC admission requirements). This would apply only to program admission requirements and not to course prerequisite requirements.
3. When most employer groups requires specific criteria before they will hire our grads (e.g. the body that certifies all water treatment operators requires all operators to have a highschool diploma; many employers in the health area require their employees to have passed a criminal records check). This would apply only to program admission requirements and not to course prerequisite requirements.
4. When the learning outcomes of a program require that some of the learning occur outside the program course structure (e.g. undergraduate credentials that require students to have a particular background [degrees that require specific work experience or a certificate/diploma for entrance]; graduate degrees that require that students have a particular background [work experience or undergraduate degree]). This would apply only to program admission requirements and not to course prerequisite requirements.
5. Other unique situation determined to be relevant by the Planning Council.

## APPROVED BY PCOL ON 19 NOVEMBER 2013:

### Principles:

In an effort to fulfill the purpose of Thompson Rivers University, specifically that mentioned in Article 3 (3) (b) of the Thompson Rivers University Act:

*"In carrying out its purposes, the university must serve*

- a) the educational and training needs in the region ..., and*
- b) the open learning needs of British Columbia."*

The Planning Council for Open Learning has adopted the following guidelines for residency and the acceptance of Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition credit for Open Learning Programs:

| Type of Open Learning credential | Minimum TRU Credit Allowable (Residency) | Maximum Prior Learning Assessment & Recognition (PLAR) |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Undergraduate Certificate        | Six (6)                                  | Unlimited *  |
| Undergraduate Diploma            | Nine (9)                                 | Unlimited *  |
| Undergraduate Degree             | Fifteen (15)                             | Unlimited *  |
| Graduate Certificate             | Six (6)                                  | All but six (6) credits **                             |
| Graduate Degree                  | Nine (9)                                 | All but nine (9) credits **                            |

\* PLAR counts as TRU Credit (residency)

\*\* PLAR does not count as TRU Credit (residency). This will be reviewed on an annual basis.