

# Building Systems Technician Certificate

<p><b>What is PLAR?</b></p>	<p>Prior Learning Assessment (PLAR) is an evaluation through a valid and reliable process, by qualified specialist(s), of the knowledge and skills that have been learned through non-formal education, training or experience to determine the equivalency for credit to a SIAST course.</p>
<p><b>What can PLAR do for me?</b></p>	<p>PLAR reduces redundant learning and provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recognition for skills and knowledge acquired through prior learning</li> <li>▪ Portable credentials</li> <li>▪ Increased employment opportunities</li> </ul>
<p><b>How do I know if I'm a candidate?</b></p>	<p>If you have 2 years recent successful work experience in the past 5 years in the Building Systems field and can provide evidence of your skills and knowledge to meet learning outcomes with the Building Systems Technician program, you may be a PLAR candidate.</p>
<p><b>What are the PLAR options?</b></p>	<p>You must be registered in a SIAST Building Systems Technician program to receive PLAR services. Admission standards for programs will still apply. See <a href="#">admissions policy</a> in the <a href="#">SIAST calendar</a> or website.</p> <p><b>Option A: Individual course challenge</b> If you have previously learned the skills and knowledge for one or more of the Building Systems Technician courses, you may apply to be assessed for each applicable course.</p> <p><b>Option B: Block practicum assessment</b> Candidates with considerable knowledge and skills in one area may wish to challenge more than one course at a time. There are 3 blocks within the BST Program that can be challenged. They are: RFRG 103/195, ENGP102/180 &amp; ELEC 135/188.</p> <p><b>Option C: Program level certification</b> Candidates with extensive and diverse experiential learning in the building systems area may wish to challenge the whole program. The challenge is comprised of evidence submission, a comprehensive exam and two demonstrations.</p>

<p><b>How many courses are available by PLAR?</b></p>	<p>Currently we have 32 out of 32 certificate courses with PLAR challenges available. There is no limit. You may challenge as many of these courses as you are able to prove prior skills and knowledge through assessment.</p> <p>Some courses common to multiple programs at SIAST (i.e. computers, communications, math, and sciences) are managed by associated studies faculty. To see if these shared courses in your program are PLAR-ready, visit the “Courses Common to Multiple Programs” link on the <a href="#">PLAR homepage</a> for further details.</p>
<p><b>When are PLAR challenges offered?</b></p>	<p>PLAR challenges are currently being offered each academic year from June to September.</p>
<p><b>How much does PLAR cost?</b></p>	<p>To find fees for your course(s) visit the <a href="#">PLAR database</a> and select your program of study from the first dropdown list of programs or search the course name and code using the “<b>keyword search</b>” option.</p> <p>For assistance, call SIAST and ask to speak to the PLAR advisor/counsellor at: 1-866-467-4278 or 1-866-goSIAST.</p>
<p><b>Are there methods other than PLAR to gain SIAST course credits for prior learning?</b></p>	<p><b>Transfer Credit</b></p> <p>SIAST may grant a transfer credit for course(s) from a recognized credit-granting post-secondary educational institution. The training must be similar in content, objectives and evaluation standards to SIAST training.</p> <p>Major changes in program content may require that the student repeat or seek prior learning assessment recognition for the course for which transfer credit is requested.</p> <p>Any transfer credit agreements with this program are listed in the candidate guide.</p> <p>For specific information and guidelines regarding transfer of credit, contact a SIAST educational counsellor or refer to the SIAST website:  <a href="http://www.siastr.ca/admissions/transfer_credit.shtml">http://www.siastr.ca/admissions/transfer_credit.shtml</a></p> <hr/> <p>If your training does not qualify for credit transfer you may ask for a review of your learning through the PLAR process.</p> <p><b>Equivalent course credit</b></p> <p>The Building Systems Technician program may recognize credit for a specific SIAST course(s) on the basis of previous credit in another SIAST course(s) with similar content.</p> <p>The <a href="#">Power Engineering Technician certificate</a> program shares common courses with the Building Systems Technician program. Please contact the BST Program Head at (306) 775-7754 for information on equivalency credit</p> <p>If the curriculum no longer qualifies for equivalency, a student may request PLAR for the course(s) if additional learning has occurred to meet the change in the current learning outcomes.</p>

<b>What do I need to prepare for a PLAR assessment?</b>	Credit is earned for proven knowledge and skills. You will be assessed on your competence in the learning outcomes for each course. For more information on the learning outcomes, criteria, and the form of assessment please refer to the <a href="#">Building Systems Technician PLAR candidate guide &amp; self-audit package</a> .
<b>How do I get started?</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Review the <a href="#">10-step PLAR process</a></li><li>2. Call SIAST and ask to speak to the PLAR advisor/counsellor assigned to the Building Systems Technician program at: 1-866-goSIAST.</li></ol>