

MOUNT SAINT VINCENT UNIVERSITY

PLAR POLICY

Prior Learning Assessment

MSVU recognizes learning that applicants have acquired through institutes, corporate and/or on-the-job training programs and educational settings not normally eligible for transfer credit. Although policies exist currently in the areas of transfer and challenge for credit, no more than 75 percent of any credential can be accredited at MSVU through a compilation of the following:

- Transfer credit to MSVU - up to 50 percent of any undergraduate credential
- Challenge for MSVU credit - up to five units in an undergraduate degree, up to three units in a certificate; up to four units in a diploma
- Portfolio assessment - up to 50 percent of any undergraduate credential

Note that credit earned through Prior Learning Assessment policies at other institutions will be assessed as transfer credit to MSVU.

Portfolio Assessment

Students who intend to request credit by portfolio assessment are recommended to register for UNIV 2100: The Portfolio Development course. This credit course may be counted as a free elective in many programs, see page . For permission to register, contact the Student Academic Advisor in the Deans' Office.

Students are requested to submit their portfolio to the Registrar's Office with their requests for specific course assessments. Portfolios will be forwarded to the appropriate department(s) for review and assessment.

Challenge for Credit

Challenge for Credit provides students who have obtained knowledge and skills (through various institutes, corporate and/or on-the-job training programs that are not normally eligible for transfer credit or requirement waiver, and self study) with an opportunity to obtain credit toward their Mount Saint Vincent University credential.

Exclusions

1. Challenge for Credit is not applicable for work completed at the secondary level.
2. Each department determines which, if any, of its course requirements can be fulfilled by Challenge for Credit, recognizing that such arrangements are not appropriate for all course offerings.

3. Students may not Challenge for Credit any coursework prerequisite to coursework taken concurrently or in the past. Similarly, students may not Challenge for Credit coursework they have exceeded by means of a placement test, requirement waiver, or transfer credit granted.

4. Students may not Challenge for Credit to raise the grade of a course taken previously at Mount Saint Vincent University or elsewhere.

Policy and Procedures

1. Students may obtain up to five units of credit through Challenge for Credit in an undergraduate degree; up to three units in a certificate or up to four units in a diploma.

2. The Registrar will initiate the process of Challenge for Credit as appropriate when reviewing application documentation for potential transfer assessment. Students may also initiate the process directly with the Registrar if they believe they are eligible.

3. Each student must meet departmental requirements for Challenge for Credit. Once approved at the department level, the student must then submit a formal Challenge for Credit application and the appropriate fee to the Registrar.

4. In most cases, Challenge for Credit will involve taking a formal examination. In some cases, especially where a formal examination is not given, the Challenge for Credit will involve completing a major project or piece of work for evaluation.

5. Students may Challenge for Credit only once for a course, and the results of the Challenge will be recorded on the transcript. Where the Challenge grade is C or higher, the actual grade is recorded. Where the grade is C- or lower, a notation of NC (no credit) is recorded.

Mature Admissions Policy

Admission may be granted to students who have not completed the formal requirements of high school.

1. Students who have graduated from high school but lack the required grade average and/or course requirements may apply for admission after three years have elapsed. A high school transcript of marks must be submitted and a pre-admission interview is required with the Student Academic Advisor. Prior to the interview, students must submit a detailed résumé outlining their previous education, work experience (both paid and volunteer) and a letter describing their educational goals. Upgrading courses may be prescribed as a condition of admission.

2. Students who did not graduate from high school may apply for admission five years after their last year in school. High school transcripts and GED scores must be submitted, or evidence of additional education. A pre-admission interview with the Student Academic Advisor is required. Upgrading courses may be prescribed as a condition of admission.

Admission may be granted to students who have been away from formal education at the high school or community-college level for five years or more.

1. Transcripts of any post-secondary coursework must be submitted and an interview with the Student Academic Advisor is required. Prior to the interview, students must submit a detailed résumé outlining their previous education, work experience (both paid and volunteer) and a letter describing their educational goals.

Students accepted to the University under the Mature Admissions Policy will be **admitted as mature students**.

Mature students lacking the specific admissions requirements for their preferred program will be admitted to the Bachelor of Arts undeclared degree. Upon successful completion of the prerequisites, mature students must apply to the Registrar in writing, for formal admission to their program. When mature students are confirmed in a program, credits already successfully completed can usually be applied to the degree requirements.

Mature students must compete with all other applications for admission to limited enrollment programs and may be required to meet specific prerequisites prior to admission. Please refer to program descriptions in Section 4.

It is normally recommended that mature students begin their studies on a part-time basis; i.e., taking one or two units in an academic year. It is recommended that mature students consult with the Student Academic Advisor while completing the first three units.

The University does have a seniors' policy that provides for a fee discount to seniors who qualify under the policy. The permission of the instructor is required during the regular session and in some cases, prerequisites may also be waived. Please refer to page of the Financial Information section of this Calendar for a description of the seniors policy.