

Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) (Maximum Credit – 30 credit hours)

Belhaven University is among more than 600 colleges and universities involved in assessing documented learning for academic credit toward an undergraduate degree. The Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL), an educational association founded in 1974 to promote the acceptance of the awarding of college credit for documented and experiential learning, has led the way in developing and implementing assessment techniques. Belhaven University uses the guidelines developed by CAEL. In order for the credit to be granted officially and recorded on the transcript, the applicant must have completed successfully a minimum of 12 semester hours of academic course work at Belhaven University.

A maximum of 30 hours may be earned through portfolio assessment. The process for experiential credit must be completed prior to the beginning of the last semester required for degree completion. PLA credit can be earned through completing one of the course options below. BU294 is for those needing more than 3 credit hours. BU291 is for those needing 1 credit hour, BU292 is for those needing 2 credit hours, and BU293 is for those needing 3 credit hours. The cost for the Portfolio evaluation and posting fees is covered by the course tuition.

BU294 Prior Learning Assessment Portfolio

This course is designed to assist the student with the development of an experiential learning portfolio. This includes developing a resume, reflecting on the personal journey through an autobiographical essay, application of a Christian worldview, and identifying knowledge and skills learned from previous work educational and work experiences in the experiential essays. The portfolio will be the basis of evaluation of work and life experiences for possible college credit. Students may write for up to 12 hours of credit for each occurrence of BU294 (resulting in a total possible of 15 credits, 3 from BU294 and up to 12 experiential credits). BU294 may be repeated. Students must register for BU294 in term 1 of the semester prior to the semester of graduation.

BU29X Prior Learning Assessment Portfolio 1-3 credits

This course is designed to assist the student with the development of an experiential learning portfolio. This includes developing a resume, reflecting on the personal journey through an autobiographical essay, application of a Christian worldview, and identifying knowledge and skills learned from previous work educational and work experiences in the experiential essays. The portfolio will be the basis of evaluation of work and life experiences for possible college credit. Students may write for 1-3 hours of credit in BU290. Students must register for BU291, BU292, or BU293 (depending on the number of elective credits needed) in term 1 of the semester prior to the semester of graduation. BU291, 2, or 3 are Pass/Fail courses.

Hours earned through alternative credit programs do not carry quality points and therefore are not considered as residential hours for honors calculations. Students who have questions about PLA are can check out the information on the Student Home page in Blazenet, or contact their Student Advisor.