



Prior Learning Assessment Policy

CAA Industry Training Program

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Jun 15, 2014

Name of Policy

Implementation Date

Industry Training Program Manager

June 15, 2014

Position(s) Responsible

Date of Last Revision

Education Committee Approval

Policy:

CAA Industry Training Program uses the Prior Learning Assessment process to recognize candidates who have the training, experience and knowledge necessary to:

1. waive a CAA course prerequisite; or
2. have that training recognized as course equivalency

Waiving a Prerequisite

This process is used when a candidate has sufficient training or experience to request exemption from a particular prerequisite. In the case of a progression of courses, this process can be used to skip a level and move into the more advanced course. Candidates should have an adequate amount of experience and training in the avalanche industry and be able to demonstrate proficiency in the target course's learning goals and objectives.

Course Equivalency

This process is used when a candidate has sufficient career accomplishments, educational, and/or professional experience to obtain a CAA course certificate without doing the course work. Supporting evidence must contain a minimum of 80% of the course goals and learning objectives described in the DACUM (course goals and objectives) for the current CAA curriculum and 100% of the mandatory components. 80% represents a course content evaluation that either is "fully satisfactory" or "exceeds requirements" according to the CAA ITP marking schema¹.

In the case where another course is being used for supporting evidence, course equivalency is defined as follows: Course "A" is equivalent to course "B" if and only if "A" satisfies all program requirements that course "B" satisfies – serving exactly the same purpose with respect to content delivery including examination, general education or program requirements.

Demonstration of non-course-based prior learning can also be used to generate an argument for course credit. This is a much more difficult argument to make and will likely require a combination of a learning portfolio, references and a skills evaluation.

¹ Refer to the CAA's Training: Student Resources webpage for the marking schema



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The CAA's Prior Learning Assessment application form online provides detailed instructions on how applicants should prepare their information and documentation. All equivalency applications are reviewed individually in a collaborative process involving a reviewer pool of CAA instructors intimately familiar with the relevant course content. All exemption applications are reviewed by the Industry Training Program Manager who includes the Education Committee and/or CAA instructors for debatable applications.

All applicants will receive one of the following decisions:

- a) PLA accepted
- b) PLA acknowledged and provisionally accepted requiring completion of missing component (e.g. exam)
- c) PLA rejected
- d) In the case of provision acceptance or rejection, applicants will be informed of the rationale behind the decision with an official letter.