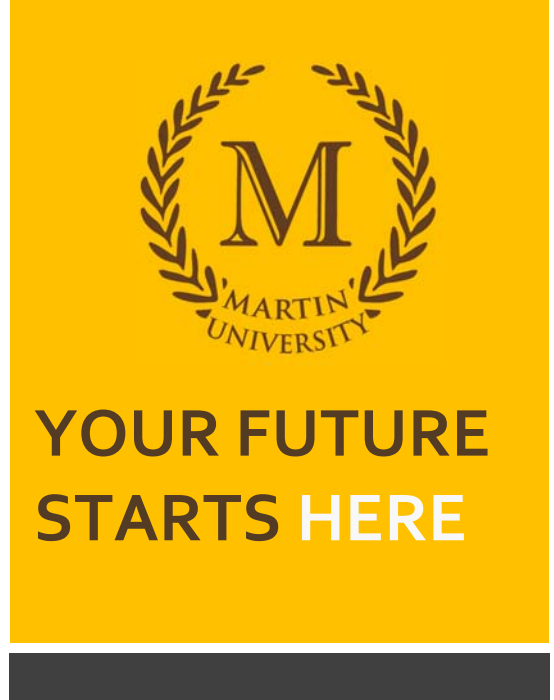




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STARTS HERE**

## **PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT (PLA)**

### **PLA 250**

Martin University offers a course to assist adult learners in earning college level credits. The course, Prior Learning Assessment (PLA 250) is a low risk, low cost, high reward opportunity specifically for the adult, mid-career changer student. The course follows a logical sequence beginning with learning the advantages of PLA, followed by collecting documentation and evidence demonstrating college level learning, and guides the student towards the end-product developing and submitting her or his portfolio for evaluation.

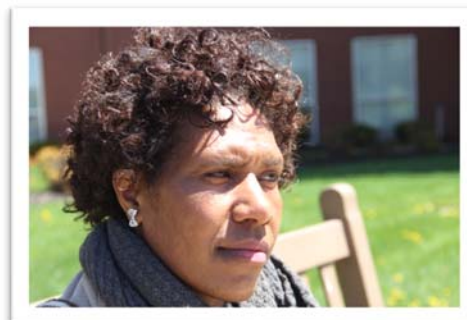
### **Low Risk**

Instead of a taking several courses one class at a time, adult learners enrolled in Martin University's PLA (Prior Learning Assessment) take ONE CLASS as a launch pad toward a degree. The course helps the student develop her or his individual portfolio resulting in moving her or him closer to earning the college degree in a career field the student

has a passion for, experience in, and can demonstrate college level learning.

### **Low Cost**

The cost of the three credit PLA 250 course is the same as a three credit the University offers. By way of developing and completing the PLA portfolio students earn additional course credits toward her or his degree. The experiential learning credits the student earns by way of the portfolio is of *NO COST* to the student; however, there is a nominal fee for evaluating the finished portfolio. The student may also earn additional credits by transfer from previously attended institutions, and by passing college level exams.



Many employers reimburse students their tuition costs and further support their employees by working together

to balance school and work schedules. PLA further saves the student's tuition dollars by eliminating the need to take on unnecessary student loans.

### **High Yield**

PLA is a *FAST TRACK* to earning a degree. The PLA student can earn up to 60 credit hours. The PLA portfolio is completed in *ONE SEMESTER*. The course positions the student to be awarded a bundle of credits at one time, and the degree can be earned in three years or less. Earning the degree positions the student to receive a raise, or a promotion commanding a higher salary with your current employment or assist you in securing a new, more exciting and meaningful career. The student, family, employer and the community benefit.

### **CAEL Certified**

Martin University's PLA program is facilitated by certified CAEL (Council on Adult and Experiential Learning) experts. The University uses the portfolio method of assessment for the majority of PLA credits awarded. Students may also demonstrate learning through standardized testing examinations such as CLEP (College

Level Exam Program); DSST (Dante Subject Standardizes Test) and ACE (American Council on Education). Students who select the portfolio pathway must attend the course orientation as a prerequisite to enroll in PLA 250.

## Course Progression

The student must attend the first six classes. Weeks one through six, of the semester occur in a traditional classroom setting so that students master the process. During weeks seven (7) through fifteen (14) students will meet with the facilitator via email, Google Hangout and office appointments.

## The Portfolio

Each student must write her or his autobiography as it relates to lifelong learning. Each student will develop her or his professional resume, and write a rationale for each course explaining why she or he merits the awarding of college level credit. The facilitator will guide and support students in learning the purposes of PLA in academia, collecting and documenting evidence and artifacts of college level learning, and assembling the portfolio. The portfolio must be submitted to the course facilitator prior to the last day of class.

## Residency Requirement



The University requires students earn a minimum 34 residency credit hours (credits earned at Martin University via traditional coursework) to meet degree requirements.

## Summary

PLA may help you earn up to 60 college credits as a result of learning you gained outside the traditional classroom setting.

PLA saves your tuition dollars by awarding credits for courses in which you demonstrate college level learning; this includes but is not limited to: work history, military and volunteer service and other life experiences.

PLA makes it possible for you to earn your Bachelor Degree in half the time.

PLA participants fulfill a residency requirement of 34 credit hours with the University to earn the degree.

### Eligibility for Enrollment in PLA:

Completion of Learning Counts Credit Predictor

Completion of ENG 108 and ENG 158 or equivalents;

Completion of CTE 150 or equivalent;

Transfer students must have completed one (1) semester at MU with all official transcripts on file and articulated.

### Steps to Get Started:

Submit to a preliminary interview process with the PLA Facilitator.

- Obtain your degree plan and meet with your Mentor to compare your required courses with your prior learning to find courses in which you may have obtained college learning.
- Obtain written authorization from your Mentor regarding potential courses for PLA credit.
- Enroll in PLA 250.



## Support Services

Martin University offers its students support services to assist them in achieving their academic goals.

### FAST FACTS

## ICI Member Institution

Martin University is a member of the Independent Colleges of Indiana. ICI institutions include Notre Dame, DePauw University, and Marian University to name a few.

Martin University is a member of a university consortium which allows students to cross register with 6 other universities in the State of Indiana, including IVY Tech, IUPUI, Butler University, Franklin College, Marian University, and the University of Indianapolis.

**For additional information contact the PLA Facilitator, Clete Ladd at [cladd@martin.edu](mailto:cladd@martin.edu).**

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