



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
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All Department and Activity Heads are requested to post this Bulletin in all work places and ensure that all employees have access to this information.

CSC Bulletin 18-04

May 18, 2018

To : All Department and Activity Heads

Subject: **Northern Marianas College Prior Learning Assessment Program**

The Civil Service Commission wishes to remind government employees of the availability of the Northern Marianas College Prior Learning Assessment Program and urge employees to take advantage of this opportunity to improve their education, skills and capabilities. Studies have shown that upgrading your education will increase your advancement possibilities and, at the same time, improve your ability to provide service to the Community. It's a win-win situation for all.

The Prior Learning Assessment Program recognizes that the work you've been doing outside of school, the skills you've learned, and the service you've provided to the Community as a government employee can be equated to college education credit. The Commission encourages government employees to utilize this program to gain credit for your experience. Use this program as a jump-start to continue your education, to improve your capabilities and qualifications, and to qualify yourself for career advancement.

What is the Prior Learning Assessment program? This program evaluates and assesses your work and life experience to grant college credit, certification, or advance standing toward further education or training. It provides college credit for learning gained outside a traditional academic environment, to include: employment, participation in employer training programs, service in the military, independent studies, volunteer or community service, and open source courseware study.

Who can Participate? NMC's Prior Learning Assessment program is available to all non-college graduate employees regardless of whether they have previously been enrolled in college or not. The program is intended for adults who wish to complete a degree while still working in their careers. A person enrolling in this program must be able to meet the general admission requirements of the college.

What is the value of this program? The Prior Learning Assessment program and continued education can help employees enhance their resumes with college credit, earn college credit toward a degree of their choice, and get ahead in their careers. Enrollment in this program can provide up to 30 credit hours toward degree completion.

What are the first steps toward enrollment? First, go to the NMC website and review the information regarding this program: <https://www.marianas.edu/pla/>. There is a short video on the website that discusses the value of the program. Determine the degree that you would like to work toward and schedule to meet with a College advisor to work up a degree plan. Credit for prior learning experiences will be attained by enrolling in and completing the Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Portfolio Development (BE 200) Course.

Who do you contact for more information? To learn more about the program, contact Raymond M. Muna, Coordinator, Prior Learning Assessment by e-mail at raymond.muna@marianas.edu or by telephone at (670) 237-6883.

Can I receive financial assistance? Yes, employed part-time students are eligible for financial assistance from the Marianas Employees Financial Aid (MEFA) program. This financial aid program can be viewed on-line at www.cnmischolarship.net/sec.asp?secID=7 and/or by contacting the CNMI Scholarship Office at (670) 664-4750.

The Civil Service Commission again wishes to strongly encourage government employees to continue their professional development and academic advancement by taking advantage of this opportunity provided by the Prior Learning Assessment program.



Felicitas P. Abraham
Chairperson, Civil Service Commission

cc: Governor
Lieutenant Governor
All Members of the Senate
All Members of the House of Representatives
President, NMC
Director of Personnel