

# RECOGNIZING YOUR PRIOR LEARNING IN AN APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM



## WHAT IS THE RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING?

Recognizing Prior Learning (RPL) is the process of receiving credit for learning gained through previous experiences or formal training. This can include any learning experience not associated with formal study, and any courses taken that are not recognized through a credit transfer agreement. Through RPL, apprentices can identify, organize, and describe the things they know and can do, with the goal of receiving credit in an apprenticeship program.

## WHAT RPL IS NOT

RPL is not receiving credit for experience only; the knowledge, skills and abilities acquired through that experience must be demonstrated. It is also not a way to get course credit without having to take a course if you have no experience or learning.

## WHAT CAN RPL DO FOR ME?

If you receive course credit for your prior learning:

- You could finish your formal school training earlier.
- You may receive advanced placement in the apprenticeship program, shortening the time until you become a journeyman.

It is important to remember that, regardless of the amount of credit received through the RPL process, you cannot become a journeyman without successfully completing the certification exam at the end of your apprenticeship program.

## WHERE DO I START?

You must be a registered apprentice to take advantage of RPL through the Apprenticeship and Trades Certification Division. Once you have contacted an Apprenticeship Program Officer at a regional Apprenticeship office to begin your apprenticeship, you will be directed to the Program Development Specialist responsible for RPL.

An RPL Guide for Apprentices is available online.

## Department of Immigration, Population Growth and Skills Apprenticeship and Trades Certification Division

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