canadianavalancheassociation

Industry Training Program

Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Process

For exemption from Avalanche Operations Level 1 prerequisite to CAA Industry Training Program (ITP) course

Applicants requesting PLA based on prior course equivalency and experience for ITP courses will submit a completed PLA checklist (this document) and provide supporting materials that achieve the outlined criteria. Incomplete or poorly produced applications will be returned without refund. Applying to the PLA process is in no way a guarantee that exemption will be granted. All applications are handled on a case-by-case basis. Applicants are strongly recommended to take time and care in the preparation of this PLA form.

DUE AT TIME OF REGISTRATION

There is a $25 + tax fee to process this application.

Applicants Name:	
Credit Card #:	
Expiry Date:	
Signature of Card Holder:	
Address of Applicant	
City, Prov./State	
Phone #	
E-mail	

Curriculum

Course content of the proposed equivalent course will contain a minimum of 80% of the current CAA curriculum. Refer to Program Goals listed on course webpages to ensure that your proposed course meets these criteria before application.

Procedure

- Provide a course schedule and a course outline that clearly describes the learning outcomes/course goals for the proposed equivalent course and *how they compare* to the CAA course of interest.
- This may require a written submission by the applicant to prove their case and ensure all details are clearly identified for the PLA Review Committee.

Achievement of Learning Outcomes & Course Goals

The applicant will have successfully achieved the learning outcomes & course goals of the proposed equivalent course.

Procedure

- ☐ Provide a transcript of achievement or a certificate of completion for the proposed equivalent course.

In the event this documentation is not available, the student will provide:

- ☐ A letter from the course instructor or current avalanche industry supervisor detailing the applicant's knowledge and ability to practically apply the knowledge and skills taught in the proposed equivalent course.

And:

- ☐ A one-page synopsis of what s/he learned in the proposed equivalent course, and is currently applying in his/her practice.

Active Learning

The applicant will have actively participated in a minimum of 80% of the learning activities of the proposed equivalent course.

Procedure

- ☐ Provide an official record of attendance and/or copy of the feedback received from the course instructor that indicates active participation in the course learning activities.

Currency

The applicant will have completed the proposed equivalent course within the past three (3) years and can demonstrate active use of the proposed equivalent course since completion of the course.

Procedure:

- ☐ Provide a course certificate or invoice with the date of completion clearly highlighted.
- ☐ Applicant will be required to prove active use in a written submission (as indicated above)

Avalanche Operations Level 1

When reading the following course goals and learning objectives, assume that each goal and objective begins with the following phrase:
By the end of the course/lesson, learners will be able to…

Course Goals		Related Learning Objectives				
		1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
A	**State the nature of avalanches**	State the snowpack properties necessary for the formation of avalanches	Describe the characteristics of avalanches	Describe the size of avalanches	Describe the motion characteristics	Describe the mechanics of snow failure and fracture
B	**State the hazards of avalanches**	State the hazards of avalanches to people and property	Describe the effect of avalanches in Canada	Define avalanche danger ratings	Describe industrial avalanche protection	
C	**Describe and classify avalanche terrain**	Identify and describe avalanche paths	Describe avalanche terrain	Apply a classification scheme to mountain terrain	Select safe routes and identify safe areas in avalanche terrain	
D	**Describe the properties of the mountain snowpack**	Describe the formation of the mountain snowpack	Describe snowpack metamorphism	Describe the significance of weak layers in the snowpack	Describe how the snowpack varies over terrain	Describe how snowpack varies over seasons
E	**Collect & record weather data**	Observe & record study plot weather data	Observe & record field weather data	Obtain & apply a weather forecast	Describe the effects of weather on the snowpack	
F	**Collect & record snowpack data**	Observe & record snowpack layer boundaries	Observe, classify & record layer properties	Observe & record snowpack temperatures	Demonstrate & record snowpack tests	Plot snow profiles
		Identify significant profile properties				

G	**Collect avalanche occurrence data**	Apply the avalanche size classification scheme	Observe & record avalanche occurrence data			
H	**State the factors and methods used in avalanche hazard evaluation**	Describe the significant factors used in snow stability evaluation	Demonstrate the use of stability & hazard ratings to evaluate avalanche hazard	Communicate significant weather & snowpack data	Define likelihood and consequences; exposure and vulnerability; frequency and magnitude	Discuss the differences and applications of the terms: avalanche risk, danger, hazard and snow stability
I	**Apply risk control methods**	Describe the rationale for risk control and safety measures	Describe pre-trip preparation for backcountry travel in avalanche terrain.	Apply appropriate risk reduction when traveling	Describe significant human factors in avalanche work	
J	**Conduct avalanche search and rescue**	Demonstrate proficiency with avalanche transceivers by locating 2 victims in a approx. 1600m (40 by 40 m) area within 15 minutes	Demonstrate effective pinpoint probing for an avalanche victim	Demonstrate the organization of 2 helpers in effective strategic shoveling for an avalanche victim	Demonstrate initializing a professional rescue response by securing the scene, a witness interview and first call to base	State the components of organized rescue plans
K	**Describe the scope of practice for L1 ski operations**	Discuss L1 mentorship	Discuss continuing professional development	Discuss the roles and responsibilities of L1 graduates		

*Each goal and objective may be comprised of several classroom and field based lectures.