



**ACAD 36:
Indigenous Knowledge Recognition Framework
for PLAR
Effective Date: Friday, April 17, 2026**

The Indigenous Knowledge (IK) Recognition Framework for Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) is designed to formally recognize Anishinaabe knowledge systems, land-based learning, and community knowledge transmission within academic credit recognition processes, while remaining consistent with academic quality assurance.

Indigenous Knowledge Recognition Framework for Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

1. Purpose

The Indigenous Knowledge (IK) Recognition Framework establishes a process for recognizing learning acquired through Indigenous knowledge systems, cultural teachings, community leadership, and land-based learning.

Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig recognizes that knowledge is transmitted through relationships with land, language, Elders, and community. This framework ensures that Indigenous knowledge and lived experience can be respectfully and appropriately recognized within the Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) process. The framework supports equitable access to higher education while maintaining the academic integrity and learning outcomes of SKG programs.

2. Scope

This framework applies to students seeking recognition of Indigenous knowledge through the PLAR process toward:

- undergraduate degree programs
- individual course credit
- program learning requirements

The framework may apply to learning gained through:

- teachings from Elders or Knowledge Keepers
- language knowledge and revitalization
- cultural practices and ceremonial participation
- land-based learning
- community leadership and governance
- traditional ecological knowledge

- Indigenous health and wellness practices

3. Guiding Principles

Recognition of Indigenous knowledge at SKG is guided by the following principles:

Respect for Indigenous Knowledge Systems

Indigenous knowledge systems are recognized as legitimate and valuable sources of learning.

Community Validation

Knowledge recognition may include community verification or affirmation.

Cultural Integrity

Assessment processes must respect cultural protocols and knowledge stewardship.

Holistic Learning

Learning is understood as encompassing intellectual, spiritual, emotional, and physical dimensions.

Ethical Knowledge Use

Sacred or protected knowledge will not be required to be disclosed for assessment purposes.

4. Types of Indigenous Knowledge Recognized

The following forms of knowledge may be recognized through PLAR.

Cultural Knowledge

- traditional teachings
- ceremony participation
- cultural protocol knowledge
- traditional storytelling and knowledge transmission

Language Knowledge

- fluency or proficiency in Anishinaabemowin or other Indigenous languages
- language revitalization work
- language teaching or translation

Land-Based Knowledge

- harvesting practices
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge
- environmental stewardship
- seasonal land-based learning

Community Leadership and Governance

- leadership roles in Indigenous communities
- governance participation

- youth leadership initiatives
- community project coordination

Indigenous Healing and Wellness Knowledge

- traditional health practices
- cultural wellness programming
- Traditional medicines knowledge
- community health leadership

5. Evidence for Indigenous Knowledge Recognition

Evidence of Indigenous knowledge may include:

- reflective learning statements
- portfolios documenting learning experiences
- community validation letters
- Elder or Knowledge Keeper affirmations
- documentation of participation in cultural or land-based programs
- language proficiency evidence
- documentation of community leadership

Evidence should demonstrate learning outcomes and competencies, not solely participation.

6. Role of Elders and Knowledge Keepers

Elders and Knowledge Keepers may participate in the PLAR process where Indigenous knowledge is being assessed.

Their roles may include:

- validating cultural knowledge
- advising on culturally appropriate assessment methods
- contributing to evaluation of learning outcomes

Participation of Elders or Knowledge Keepers is conducted in accordance with SKG cultural protocols.

7. Assessment Methods

Indigenous knowledge may be assessed through methods that respect Indigenous ways of learning.

Assessment methods may include:

- portfolio review
- storytelling or oral knowledge sharing
- interviews or knowledge dialogue
- land-based demonstration
- reflective narratives

- community validation

The assessment method will depend on the nature of the knowledge being evaluated.

8. Academic Alignment

Indigenous knowledge recognition must demonstrate alignment with course or program learning outcomes.

Where appropriate, programs may:

- map Indigenous knowledge to learning outcomes
- identify appropriate course equivalencies
- recommend partial or full course credit

9. Cultural Protocols

The following cultural protocols apply to Indigenous knowledge recognition:

- sacred knowledge will not be required to be documented
- knowledge holders must consent to participation
- cultural teachings must be respected and protected
- assessment processes must follow community cultural practices where appropriate

10. Documentation and Confidentiality

All PLAR documentation will be maintained by the Registrar's Office in accordance with institutional privacy policies.

Culturally sensitive knowledge shared through the process will be treated with strict confidentiality.

11. Alignment with Institutional Mission

The Indigenous Knowledge Recognition Framework supports SKG's mission by:

- affirming the value of Anishinaabe knowledge systems
- strengthening community-based learning pathways
- supporting Indigenous student access and success
- honoring the vision of the Teaching Wigwam

12. Review

This framework will be reviewed every three years in consultation with:

- academic leadership
- Indigenous knowledge holders
- community representatives

Example Indigenous Knowledge PLAR Assessment Pathway

