

# Welcome to the Learning Assessment Seminar!

## Seminar Overview: *What is the Purpose of the LAS?*

This Seminar is the first step in DePaul University's competence-based Bachelor of Arts program here at its School for New Learning (SNL). The LAS instructor guides each student through a series of learning activities and assignments that fulfill requirements for the first competence in the Lifelong Learning Area (L-1): ***Can assess one's strengths, and set personal, professional, and educational goals.***

How will SNL know whether each student is competent in L-1? We break the competence statement down into measurable pieces called "criteria for assessment." The Seminar is designed to address each of these criteria:

1. Identifies qualities and abilities that have contributed to success in the past.
2. Articulates goals to guide educational and professional choices.
3. Assesses the relationship between personal strengths, areas for development, and life goals.

Your Learning Assessment Seminar instructor and the course materials will help you define educational goals and understand how you can use the many flexible learning options in the SNL BA program to achieve these goals. Students' learning in this Seminar combines small and large group discussion, exercises, informal advising, and required written assignments to identify areas of current knowledge and skills as well as areas for new learning. You will learn to combine these elements in a preliminary degree completion plan, including independent learning options and an initial conception of the self-designed professional Focus Area.

The Seminar provides each student with the tools necessary to plan an individualized academic program, estimate the time to degree completion, and identify resources necessary for academic success.

## Seminar Overview: *What Does a Student Accomplish in the LAS?*

Students who pass the LAS, and who have sent DePaul University all transcripts from prior institutions attended, become candidates for full admission. Full admission to the University allows a student to benefit from all rights accorded to DePaul students, and to participate in all student responsibilities as well. New students should peruse the *Undergraduate Student Handbook* to familiarize themselves with these rights, responsibilities, and resources: [www.depaul.edu](http://www.depaul.edu) (Go to Current Students, then to "Student Services").

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Students who are fully-admitted to the School for New Learning at DePaul University can pursue the undergraduate degree without having their progress interrupted by having to wait for transcripts to arrive and be made a part of the official DePaul student record.

If you have not yet ordered all transcripts from all accredited schools you have attended, please do so immediately. Request an official copy be sent to:

**DePaul University**  
**Office of Admissions, Transfer Coursework Center**  
***On Behalf of:* School for New Learning**  
**25 E. Jackson Boulevard**  
**Chicago, IL 60604          ATTN: Transcripts**

## **Seminar Overview: *How Are Students Assessed in the LAS?***

Students in the Learning Assessment Seminar are assessed in four (4) areas of skill necessary for the successful pursuit of this degree:

### Clarity of Educational Goals

Students demonstrate ability in exploring options for meeting educational, career-related, or personal goals; in understanding the basic educational requirements needed to attain these goals; in examining individual abilities, interests, values, commitments, and resources in light of those goals; and in developing initial plans and ideas for the Focus Area.

### Interpersonal Skills

Students demonstrate ability to work comfortably in group and class settings; to contribute insightfully and appropriately to class discussion; to use active listening skills; and to accept suggestions from instructors and peers, and remain open to others' perspectives.

### Writing Skills

Students demonstrate ability to organize written work to meet the specifications of an assignment; to express ideas clearly and concisely in writing; to demonstrate facility with basic writing mechanics, spelling, punctuation, grammar, sentence structure; and to begin developing individual style and voice.

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### Readiness for SNL

Students demonstrate an understanding of the requirements of the SNL undergraduate program; a willingness to take primary responsibility for designing and implementing an individualized learning plan; and a commitment to manage time and other necessary resources for success to the best of one's ability.

### Required Evidence for Competence:

Students in the Learning Assessment Seminar must submit three completed assignments to the instructor (final versions incorporating all instructor feedback) in order to receive the grade of PASS:

1. Self-Assessment;
2. Learning Autobiography;
3. Writing Placement Essay.

Please note that individual LAS instructors may assign additional required work, and are fully empowered to do so.

### Grading and Assessment:

As in the Lifelong Learning Area in general, the L-1 course is graded on a PASS-FAIL basis:

- PA:** Student attended, and participated in, each class discussion during the assigned module dates; all required assignments, including drafts, submitted by due dates listed.
- IN:** Student attendance, participation, and assignment submittal not complete. If the outstanding course work is not completed by the date stipulated in the IN Contract, this grade changes irrevocably to FAIL at the end of the second quarter after it is submitted by the instructor.
- W:** Student withdraws his or her own registration before the end of the second week of the session by contacting the LAS Coordinator through [snllas@depaul.edu](mailto:snllas@depaul.edu) (or simply drops the L-1 competence using the Campus Connection account).

**F:** Student did not attend class discussions, submit at least a draft of all required work, nor request the grade of IN or W.

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*If you receive the grade of PA: Your attendance was punctual and complete; participation reflective and insightful and occurred during specified assignment dates; written work complete and either at or near college-level proficiency, and reflects all prior feedback provided by the LAS instructor.*

*You are ready (provided we have your transcripts) for the admissions interview and full admission to DePaul University, registration for the “Foundations of Adult Learning” competences (L2/L3), and successful pursuit of the undergraduate degree!*

*If you receive the grade of IN: You submitted a draft version of every major assignment, but did not complete the final versions; you have posted to the majority, but not all, of the discussions. Students wishing to receive this grade must request it, and must meet the specifications set forth above. Please contact your LAS instructor to complete all required work for L-1 by an agreed-upon date. These arrangements will be made in writing, signed by both parties, and forwarded to the LAS Coordinator. Please note that acceptable final versions of all major assignments will reflect the feedback of the LAS instructor in its entirety. The instructor is not obligated to change the grade of IN to PA unless the work reflects his or her prior feedback.*

Please Note: Pursuant to DePaul University policy, all grades of IN automatically and irrevocably convert to F at the end of the second quarter subsequent to their conferral, if the work remains uncompleted by the date specified in the contract.

*If you elect to Withdraw (W) from the Seminar: This is a better option than requesting an Incomplete (IN), as you may be eligible for a refund of the Seminar fee, and there is no possibility of receiving the grade of F (see above). Students must request this grade prior to the end of the second week of the class by contacting the LAS Coordinator at [snllas@depaul.edu](mailto:snllas@depaul.edu), or (if applicable) simply dropping the competence using your Campus Connection account. To re-register for a new section of LAS, fax or mail us the registration form. Certain stipulations apply to the refund of the Seminar fee, and in no event may it be refunded more than once. Please send a message to [snllas@depaul.edu](mailto:snllas@depaul.edu) if you wish to pursue this matter, and we will send you the list of stipulations for a refund of the course fee.*

**Students officially registered with the Chronic Illness Initiative, and who become incapacitated during the period of the Seminar must contact BOTH the LAS Coordinator AND your CII advisor prior to the end of the Seminar**

***to make all necessary arrangements for course withdrawal and application for a one-time refund.***

Please note that this grading policy for the Learning Assessment Seminar is not subject to exception.