

GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC)

Approved Motions

The following Motion and attendant Final Document were approved by the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) at the meeting of Wednesday, June 8, 2011:

Agenda Title: **Office of the Registrar and Student Awards' Proposed Expansion of the University of Alberta Bridging Program**

Motion: THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed expansion of the University of Alberta Bridging Program to include a Stage 1, with newly-defined admission requirements, and the renaming of the current Bridging Program to the University of Alberta Bridging Program Stage 2, as submitted by the Office of the Registrar and Student Awards and as set forth in Attachments 1 and 2 of the documentation, to take effect upon approval and for publication in the 2012-2013 University Calendar.

Final Approved Document: [Item 4](#)

OUTLINE OF ISSUE

Agenda Title: Office of the Registrar and Student Awards' Proposed Expansion of the University of Alberta Bridging Program

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Item

Action Requested	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approval <input type="checkbox"/> Recommendation <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion/Advice <input type="checkbox"/> Information
Proposed by	Office of the Registrar and Student Awards
Presenters	Gerry Kendal, Vice-Provost and University Registrar, and Bill Connor, Special Advisor to the Provost
Subject	Admission Requirements to the University of Alberta Bridging Program

Details

Responsibility	Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
The Purpose of the Proposal is (please be specific)	To expand the University of Alberta Bridging Program to include a Stage 1 and Stage 2 which will provide students an option to ladder from the first to the second.
The Impact of the Proposal is	<p>The University of Alberta Bridging Program was begun in 2003, and it has been evolving and growing since that time. The Bridging Program allows international students who present competitive averages or better, but who have lower than the minimum English language requirements, to be admitted to a participating Faculty while upgrading their language skills in the Faculty of Extension's English Language Program. Upon successfully completing the Bridging Program, students may either continue their degree programs in their Faculty of registration or apply to transfer to another Faculty. At present, the participating Faculties are Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences, Arts, Augustana, Native Studies, and Science.</p> <p>Both university and private foundation programs in Canada admit students with a lower level of language proficiency than our established Bridging Program, so in order to be competitive, our Bridging Program is adding a new level of language training (Bridging Program Stage 1) that will prepare otherwise qualified students to enter the established program (Bridging Program Stage 2). The proposed English language admission requirements would apply to applicants entering this new Bridging Program Stage 1.</p> <p>The proposed requirements pose no risk to academic standards for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proposed standards are comparable to or higher than requirements of competing programs in Canada. 2. Students in the Bridging Program Stage 1 will not be allowed to take credit courses until they have successfully completed Stage 1.



	3. Their continuation in the University will require progression to Bridging Program Stage 2, where they will be required to pass both ESL 140 and ESL 145, the present completion requirement for Bridging Program students.
Replaces/Revises (eg, policies, resolutions)	<i>University of Alberta Calendar</i> Section 13.3.1
Timeline/Implementation Date	Early implementation: to take effect upon approval and for publication in the 2012-13 edition of the <i>University Calendar</i> .
Estimated Cost	N/A
Sources of Funding	N/A
Notes	N/A

Alignment/Compliance

Alignment with Guiding Documents	<i>Dare to Discover</i> Values: to provide an intellectually superior educational environment; integrity, fairness, and principles of ethical conduct built on the foundation of academic freedom, open inquiry, and the pursuit of truth
Compliance with Legislation, Policy and/or Procedure Relevant to the Proposal (please <u>quote</u> legislation and include identifying section numbers)	<p>1. Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA): The <i>PSLA</i> gives GFC responsibility, subject to the authority of the Board of Governors, over academic affairs. Further, the <i>PSLA</i> gives the Board of Governors authority over certain admission requirements and rules respecting enrolment. The Board has delegated its authority over admissions requirements and rules respecting enrolment to GFC and the GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC). (Sections 26(1), 60(1)(c) and (d)).</p> <p>2. GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC) Terms of Reference (Mandate) allow for GFC ASC to respond “to proposals that may affect the admission or transfer of students to the University of Alberta.” (Section 3.B.x).</p> <p>3. UAPPOL Admissions Policy: “Admission to the University of Alberta is based on documented academic criteria established by individual Faculties and approved by GFC. This criteria may be defined in areas such as subject requirements, minimum entrance averages, and language proficiency requirements. In addition to academic requirements for admission, GFC authorizes each Faculty to establish such other reasonable criteria for admission of applicants as the Faculty may consider appropriate to its programs of study, subject to the approval of GFC (e.g. interview, audition, portfolio, etc.)</p> <p>The admission requirements for any Faculty will be those approved by GFC as set forth in the current edition of the <i>University Calendar</i>. In addition to the admission requirements, selection criteria for quota programs, where they exist, will also be published in the current edition of the <i>University Calendar</i>.</p> <p>The responsibility for admission decisions will be vested in the Faculty Admission Committees or in the Deans of the respective Faculties, as the councils of such Faculties will determine.”</p> <p>4. UAPPOL Admissions Procedure:</p>



PROCEDURE

1. EFFECTIVE DATE OF CHANGES TO ADMISSION REGULATIONS

Following approval by GFC:

a. Where changes to admission regulations may disadvantage students in the current admission cycle, normally implementation will be effective after the change has been published in the University Calendar for one full year (i.e., effective the second year that the information is published in the University Calendar).

For example, a change approved in May 2005 would be first published in the 2006-2007 University Calendar in March 2006. Therefore the statement cannot come into effect until September 2007 (affecting applicants who apply for the September 2007 term beginning July 2006)."

b. Where changes to admission regulations are deemed by the approving body to be 'advantageous to students', normally the date of implementation will be effective immediately or at the next available intake for the admitting Faculty."

5. GFC ASC Terms of Reference (Mandate): The Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) has determined that the proposed changes are **substantial** in nature. ASC's terms of reference provide that "the term '**substantial**' refers to proposals which involve or affect more than one Faculty or unit; are part of a proposal for a new program; are likely to have financial impact; represent a definite departure from current policy; involve a quota; articulate a new academic concept." (3.A.ii).

6. GFC ASC Terms of Reference (Mandate): "ASC provides advice or recommends to the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) on proposals which involve substantial change to admission/transfer regulations or to academic standing regulations." (3.B.iv)

7. GFC Academic Planning Committee Terms of Reference (Mandate) states:

"The Academic Planning Committee (APC) is GFC's senior committee dealing with academic, financial and planning issues. As such, it is not only responsible to GFC (or the Board) for the specific matters itemized below, but may also ask to consider or recommend to GFC on any academic issue, including 1) those issues under the purview of other GFC committees [...]. In like manner, the President, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) or other Vice-Presidents may refer any matter to APC for consideration or recommendation to GFC. APC is also responsible to GFC for promoting an optimal learning environment for students and excellence in teaching, research, and graduate studies. [...]"

7. Admission, Transfer and Academic Standing
[...]

	<p>a. To consider advice or recommendation from the GFC ASC on proposals for the establishment of or change to general University admission or transfer policies affecting students, including policies affecting Open Studies students, and to act for GFC in approving policies which in APC's view are minor or routine; and to recommend to GFC on proposals involving major change.</p> <p>b. To consider advice or recommendation from the GFC ASC on proposals which involve substantial change to admission/transfer regulations or to academic standing regulations." (3.7)</p>
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Routing (Include meeting dates)

Consultative Route (parties who have seen the proposal and in what capacity)	<p>Week of March 21, 2011 – Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic);</p> <p>Week of March 28, 2011 – Faculties of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences, Arts, Augustana, Native Studies, Science;</p> <p>April 4, 2011 – Vice-Provosts' Meeting/Provost International;</p> <p>April 6, 2011 – Deans' Council;</p> <p>April 14, 2011 – Meeting of the International Admissions Network (Faculties of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences, Arts, Augustana, Business, Education, Engineering, Graduate Studies and Research, Native Studies, Science);</p> <p>April 27, 2011 – Meeting of Bridging Program Stakeholders (Bridging Program Participating Faculties, Faculty of Extension, and Administration);</p> <p>May 5, 2011 – GFC ASC Subcommittee on Standards</p>
Approval Route (Governance) (including meeting dates)	<p>GFC Academic Standards Committee—for recommendation (May 19, 2011)</p> <p>GFC Academic Planning Committee – for final approval (June 8, 2011)</p>
Final Approver	GFC Academic Planning Committee – June 8, 2011

Attachments:

1. Attachment 1 (page 1) – An Overview of the University of Alberta Bridging Program
2. Attachment 2 (pages 1 – 2) – Proposed Changes for the 2012-13 *University Calendar*

Prepared by: Carrie Holstead, Policy Development and Issues Advisor, carrie.holstead@ualberta.ca

An Overview of the University of Alberta Bridging Program

The University has assisted international applicants who need additional English language training in its Bridging Program for about eight years. Initially the program operated informally, but it was officially established in 2005/06 when Bridging Program students were registered in Open Studies, with an advisor in the Registrar's Office inviting applicants with superior grades who had failed to meet the language requirements to enroll. Students would take ESL 140 and 145 – normally one each term -- in the Faculty of Extension and, in some cases, a couple of regular academic courses. In 2005/06, 94 students started the Bridging Program.

Because some students had trouble getting study visas when registered in Open Studies (because Open Studies didn't lead directly to a degree or certificate), the Registrar's Office looked into finding a faculty that would enroll the Bridging Program students for 2006. Arts agreed. Even with minimal advertising, enrollment gradually increased to 175 in 2009-10. In 2010/11, both overall enrollment and the number of participating faculties increased. 198 students started last fall – Arts 148, Science 40, ALES 10. The faculties of Augustana and Native Studies have agreed to participate starting in 2011.

Bridging Program students improve their language skills in the long-established English Language Program of the Faculty of Extension. In the current year, Bridging Program students could start intensive 7-week language courses, ESL 140 (English for Academic Purposes, Part I) and ESL 145 (English for Academic Purposes, Part II) at six points in the academic year – July, September (the largest group), November, January, March, and May. In September of 2011, an existing English Language Program course, ESL 135, will be offered in an enriched form to Bridging Program students who need additional English language training before beginning ESL 140 in the established program.

Starting in the 2011/12 academic year, the Bridging Program will be organized in three “stages” and additional academic skills training will be added.

Bridging Program Stage 1 will consist of ESL 135, a non-credit academic preparation course, and learning strategies seminars. Students will not be allowed to enroll in regular degree-credit courses in Stage 1.

Bridging Program Stage 2 will consist of ESL 140 and ESL 145 (worth 3 credits each), non-credit academic preparation courses, and learning strategies seminars. Students can also attempt one degree-credit course from an approved list. Stage 2 is quite similar to our traditional Bridging Program, but with additional academic support components.

Bridging Program Stage 3 will allow students who have successfully completed ESL 145 to enroll in regular degree-credit courses. Academic support and advising will continue, and there will be activities and information sessions designed to help the students with the transition to mainstream undergraduate programs. The essential feature of Stage 3 is the continuing connection with the Bridging Program and the support offered students during their first term as full-time undergraduates.

The enhanced Bridging program is intended not only to increase international student numbers but also to improve the success rates of the students entering their degree programs through this route.

ESL 135, 140, & 145 Hours of Instruction (as of September 2011)

- ESL 135: 124 hrs (*112 hrs regular instruction + 12 hrs Foundation Program 101*) – not yet finalized for September 2011
- ESL 140: 130 hrs (*112 hrs regular instruction + 18 hrs Introduction to Science*)
- ESL 145: 130 hrs (*112 hrs regular instruction + 18 hrs Introduction to Literature*)

Proposed Changes to the University of Alberta Calendar	
<i>2011-2012 Calendar (Current)</i>	<i>2012-2013 Calendar (Proposed)</i>
<p>13.3 Language Proficiency Requirements</p> <p>13.3.1 English Language Proficiency</p> <p>English is the primary language of instruction in all Faculties except Faculté Saint-Jean. All undergraduate applicants to any program or course except Faculté Saint-Jean need an adequate level of English language proficiency before admission, regardless of their citizenship status or country of origin.</p> <p>The University of Alberta reserves the right to use discretion in determining adequate levels of language proficiency to ensure success in academic programs. In some cases, additional English language testing, conducted by the Faculty of Extension, may be required to confirm English proficiency.</p> <p>Proficiency in English may be fulfilled in one of the following ways:</p> <p>(1) Successful completion of three years of full-time education in English</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. in Canada including the grade 12 year. This can be a combination of secondary and postsecondary education. (See notes 1, 2, and 3). b. in another country where English is recognized as an official language of instruction. (See notes 1, 2, 3, and 5). c. at a recognized school/institution which uses English as the primary language of instruction. (See notes 1, 2, 3, and 5). <p>(...)</p> <p>(5) One of the two TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) test formats with the appropriate score;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Internet-based TOEFL (iBT) of at least 86, with no less than 21 on each band. (See note 4) b. Paper-based TOEFL of at least 580 with a TWE of 4.0 or better (See note 4) <p>(6) A score of at least 85 on the MELAB (Michigan English Assessment Battery). (See note 4)</p> <p>(7) A score of at least 6.5 on the IELTS (International English Language Testing System) with no band less than 5.0. (See note 4)</p> <p>(8) A score of at least 70 on the CAEL (the Canadian Academic English Language assessment exam). (See note 4)</p> <p>(9) A score of at least 59 on the PTE Academic (Pearson</p>	<p>13.3 Language Proficiency Requirements</p> <p>13.3.1 English Language Proficiency</p> <p>English is the primary language of instruction in all Faculties except Faculté Saint-Jean. All undergraduate applicants to any program or course except Faculté Saint-Jean need an adequate level of English language proficiency before admission, regardless of their citizenship status or country of origin.</p> <p>The University of Alberta reserves the right to use discretion in determining adequate levels of language proficiency to ensure success in academic programs. In some cases, additional English language testing, conducted by the Faculty of Extension, may be required to confirm English proficiency.</p> <p>Proficiency in English may be fulfilled in one of the following ways:</p> <p>(1) Successful completion of three years of full-time education in English</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. in Canada including the grade 12 year. This can be a combination of secondary and postsecondary education. (See notes 1, 2, and 3). b. in another country where English is recognized as an official language of instruction. (See notes 1, 2, 3, and 5). c. at a recognized school/institution which uses English as the primary language of instruction. (See notes 1, 2, 3, and 5). <p>(...)</p> <p>(5) One of the two TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) test formats with the appropriate score;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Internet-based TOEFL (iBT) of at least 86, with no less than 21 on each band. (See note 4) b. Paper-based TOEFL of at least 580 with a TWE of 4.0 or better (See note 4) <p>(6) A score of at least 85 on the MELAB (Michigan English Assessment Battery). (See note 4)</p> <p>(7) A score of at least 6.5 on the IELTS (International English Language Testing System) with no band less than 5.0. (See note 4)</p> <p>(8) A score of at least 70 on the CAEL (the Canadian Academic English Language assessment exam). (See note 4)</p> <p>(9) A score of at least 59 on the PTE Academic (Pearson</p>

<p>Test of English Academic)</p> <p>(10) Successful completion of the University of Alberta's ESL 140/145.</p> <p>Applicants with superior academic standing who do not meet the English language requirements but who have a TOEFL score between 70 and 85 (internet-based), or 530 and 577 (paper-based) and who meet all other Faculty-specific program requirements may be considered for admission to the Bridging Program.</p> <p>For more information, students should contact the Office of the Registrar and Student Awards, International Admissions Unit, 105 Administration Building, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2M7.</p>	<p>Test of English Academic)</p> <p>(10) Successful completion of the University of Alberta's ESL 140/145.</p> <p><u>Bridging Program Stages 1 and 2</u></p> <p><u>Applicants with superior academic standing who do not meet the English language requirements but who have a minimum TOEFL score of 65 (internet-based), or 500 (paper-based), or a score of at least 5.0 on the IELTS and who meet all other Faculty-specific program requirements may be considered for admission to the Bridging Program Stage 1.</u></p> <p>Applicants with superior academic standing who do not meet the English language requirements but <u>who have successfully completed Bridging Program Stage 1 or</u> who have a TOEFL score between 70 and 85 (internet-based), or 530 and 577 (paper-based) <u>or a score of at least 5.5 on IELTS</u> and who meet all other Faculty-specific program requirements may be considered for admission to the Bridging Program <u>Stage 2.</u></p> <p>For more information, students should contact the Office of the Registrar and Student Awards, International Admissions Unit, 105 Administration Building, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2M7.</p>
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