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Bridge Program

The Saint Leo University Bridge Program is an academic program designed to provide qualified students with the opportunity to adjust smoothly to the U.S. academic environment. The program serves the needs and the interests of international students who meet the minimum English language proficiency requirements for University admission.

■ Why choose the Bridge Program?

- Study with highly qualified instructors who are dedicated to your success in the new academic culture.
- Our classes are designed to support your academic development by providing opportunities to master your academic communication skills, advance your learning skills, and become familiar with the academic culture in the U.S.
- Earn up to 24 university-level elective academic and 6 university exploration (general education) credits while studying in the program.
- Enjoy learning at the beautiful state-of-art campus of the oldest Catholic institution of higher education in Florida and one of the top universities in Central Florida.

Note, different majors require a different number of elective credits (from 0 to 39). Please refer to the Undergraduate Academic Catalog for more information.

■ Eligibility Requirements

If you are ready to start your undergraduate studies, but your language proficiency test scores are just below the admission requirements, our Bridge Program is for you.

Regular Track (2 semesters): The students whose scores show intermediate proficiency level (TOEFL iBT 45-64 , IELTS 5.0-5.5, PTE-A 35-43) will be enrolled in the regular two-semester track and will follow the full Bridge Program curriculum.

Fast Track (1 semester): The students whose scores indicate advanced-intermediate level of proficiency (TOEFL iBT 64-78 , IELTS 6.0-6.5 , PTE-A 44-52) will be enrolled in the fast one-semester track which follows a modified curriculum.

■ Course Sequence

Regular Track (30 Credit Hours)

Semester 1 (15 credit hours)

- ENG 114** – Composition and Grammar for Speakers of Other Languages (3 credits)
- ENG 115** – College Reading I (3 credits)
- ENG 120** – Listening, Lecture Note-Taking, and Speaking (3 credits)
- SLU 105** – Introduction to American Culture and University Life (3 credits)
- SLU 110** – Academic Learning Laboratory I (2 credits)
- SLU 101** – Introduction to University Experience (1 credit)

Semester 2 (15 credit hours)

- ENG 118** – Composition for Speakers of Other Languages (3 credits)
- ENG117** – College Reading II (3 credits)
- SLU 112** – Academic Learning Laboratory II (3 credits)
- *Two Approved University Explorations courses (6 credits)

Fast Track (16 credit hours)

- ENG 118** – Composition for Speakers of Other Languages (3 credits)
- ENG117** – College Reading II (3 credits)
- SLU 112** – Academic Learning Laboratory II (3 credits)
- SLU 105** – Introduction to American Culture and University Life (3 credits)
- SLU 101** – Introduction to University Experience (1 credit)
- *Approved University Explorations course (3 credits)

Course Description

ENG 114 – Composition and Grammar for Speakers of Other Languages

Prerequisite: Admission to the regular track of the Bridge Program.

A course designed to remedy the special problems of non-native speakers. Emphasis is on spoken as well as written academic English. (3 credits)

ENG 120 – Listening, Lecture Note-Taking, and Speaking

Prerequisite: Admission into the Bridge Program. Admission to the regular track of the Bridge Program.

This course is designed to improve the academic listening and speaking skills of non-native speakers of English. Emphasis is on lecture note-taking, academic communication in various settings, and presentation skills. (3 credits)

ENG 115 – College Reading I

Prerequisite: Admission to the regular track of the Bridge Program.

This course is designed to improve the critical reading and academic vocabulary skills of non-native speakers of English. Emphasis is on using effective reading strategies to aid in the comprehension of general academic texts. (3 credits)

ENG 117 – College Reading II

Prerequisite: Admission to the fast track of the Bridge Program OR successful completion of ENG 115

This course aims to support the mastery of key academic reading skills and the application of effective critical reading strategies. During the course, the students will be involved in active reading of college-level texts, critical examination of text organization patterns, identification of main and supporting ideas, and analysis of the connections of ideas presented in the texts. (3 credits)

ENG 118 – Composition for Speakers of Other Languages

Prerequisite: Admission to the fast track of the Bridge Program OR successful completion of ENG114

A course designed to help non-native speakers improve their critical thinking, reasoning, and academic writing skills. Increased emphasis is on English idiomatic usage and academic text structure. (3 credits)

SLU 105 – Introduction to American Culture and University Life

Prerequisite: Admission to the Bridge Program.

This course is intended for international students who are entering a US college. It focuses on improving international students' cross-cultural competence and granting opportunities for analyzing complex social, moral, and academic issues that students will have to face while studying in the US. (3 credits)

SLU 110 – Academic Learning Laboratory I

Prerequisite: Admission to the regular track of the Bridge Program.

This course is designed to improve the academic skills of non-native speakers of English. Emphasis is on access and evaluation of informational resources, on gaining familiarity with university expectations, regulations, and resources, as well as on developing oral and written academic presentation skills. (2 credits)

SLU 112 – Academic Learning Laboratory II

Prerequisite: Admission to the fast track of the Bridge Program OR successful completion of SLU 110

This course is designed to improve the academic skills of non-native speakers of English. Emphasis is on mastery of active and critical use of informational resources in students' academic work, critical reading, logical thinking, and academic writing. (3 credits)

Transitional Composition Course

ENG 119 - Composition for Advanced Speakers of Other Languages

Placement: Based on the results of the University freshman English language placement test.

This course is designed to address the specific problems of non-native speakers of English; it targets the refining of their academic writing skills including grammar, vocabulary, and academic text organization. For non-native speakers, the course replaces the ENG 002 (3 credits).

Courses for Bridge Students and All Degree-Pursuing Students

SLU 101 – Introduction to the University Experience

This course provides a unique, collective, intellectual experience that helps to establish familiar and cooperative bonds among the student, the instructor, and the academic advisor. It provides a framework of effective academic and personal strategies to help the student succeed both in and out of the classroom. Students are engaged in reflective writing assignments, group and class discussions, individual and group presentations, and various Internet activities. The course is supplemented with convocations and guest speakers from many disciplines, including career development, majors, campus support services, personal finance, Saint Leo history, and our Benedictine-inspired values. The student also becomes an active member of a support group by examining problems and issues common to the freshman experience. (1 credit)

SLU 200 – Learning Laboratory

This course is offered to emphasize positive change and enhance student academic skills, confidence, and potential for academic success. (1 credit)

Faculty Contact

Dr. Iona Sarieva, Bridge Program Director
Assistant Professor, College of Arts and Sciences
(352) 588-8384
iona.sarieva@saintleo.edu



Bridge at Saint Leo University

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