



ONTARIO UNIVERSITY REGISTRARS' ASSOCIATION

2011 Conference

March 6-8 - Deerhurst Resort

# The Catalyst for Academic Success: English Academic Preparation Programming or Certified Testing?

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## Context at Laurier

- 16,364 students in Winter 2011
- 241 visa students or 1.4% of population
- 48 out of 49 in Maclean's rankings
- Desire to increase international students to 6% of population (national average)



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## Response

- New hires and processes
- Active travel schedule
- Expansion of score acceptance – Pearson
- EAP partners and Conditional Offers
- Inception of Laurier English Academic Foundation Program (LEAF)



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## Test Scores

- TOEFL iBT – 83 with a min of 20 in each
- TOEFL Paper – 560 Computer Based - 237
- IELTS – 6.5
- MELAB – 85
- CAEL – 70 with each band 60 or higher
- Pearson – 59 overall



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## Why EAP Partners?

- No English Language Training at the time
- Increase applicant pool through shared recruitment
- Expand options for applicants
- Better indicator of success?



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## Partner Schools – Renison College

- English for Academic Success Program
- Requirement is Advanced Level 400 completed with a minimum grade of 75%
- Double Degree program requirement is 80%



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## Partner Schools – Renison College

- Advantages
  - Close to Laurier Waterloo campus
  - Linked with UofW
- Disadvantage
  - Don't recruit themselves



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# Partner Schools – University of Guelph

- English Language Certificate Program
- Advanced Level with a minimum grade of 75%
- Double degree programs require 80%



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# Partner Schools – University of Guelph

- Advantages
  - Active recruiters
  - Good indicators of success thus far
- Disadvantage
  - Not a lot of students yet
  - Distance from campuses



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## Partner Schools – Conestoga College

- Intensive English Language for Academic Studies
- Level 4 with a minimum grade of 70%
- Double Degree programs 75%



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# Partner Schools – Conestoga College

- Advantages
  - Active recruiters
  - Long established program with good reputation
  - Local (enough)
- Disadvantages
  - Student results thus far are mixed



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## Laurier English & Academic Foundation Program (LEAF)

- Intensive English Language for Academic Studies
- Started Fall 2010 – made money in first term
- Located at Brantford Campus
- Completion of the 5 Level Program



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# Laurier English & Academic Foundation Program (LEAF)

- Advantages
  - Its ours!
  - Revenue stream – offsetting other activities
  - Will results in more degree seeking students
- Disadvantages
  - Just at one campus for now



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## Policy Process

- Institutional support was present
- Need to present case to Senate
- Evidence based approach
  - What are levels equal to in terms of scores
  - Evidence of how graduates do
  - Comparators – who else accepts scores



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## Policy Process

- Conditional Admission Process
  - Admitted to partner
  - They supply application for Laurier
  - We conditionally admit them to degree program
  - Use both letters to secure student authorisation



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## Why Conditional Admits

- Benefits both partner and us in terms of increasing numbers
- Attractive to applicants
- Increase applicants at little cost
- Low risk to university



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# Impact on Applicants

- Increase in applications
  - 2009 - 983 applicants
  - 2010 – 1,026 applicants
  - 2011 – 1,148 applicants to date
- 186 of 1,1148 are EAP conditional admits



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## Impact on Registrations

- Increase in registered students
  - 204 students in Winter 2010
  - 240 students in Winter 2011 – 17.6% increase



## Results thus Far

- WLU Grading Scale

12 – A+ - 90-100

9 – B+ - 77-79

6 – C+ - 67-69

3 – D+ - 57-59

0 – F – 0-49



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## Results thus Far

- Conestoga College – 16 students/5.03 GPA/C
- Guelph – 6 students/6.84 GPA/C+
- Renison – 14 students/6.40 GPA/C+



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# Comparison to Test Score Students

- 215 test scores – 8.04 GPA/B
- IELTS – 83 students – 8.08 GPA/B
- TOEFL IBT – 119 – 7.86 GPA/B-
- TOEFL Paper – 12 – 9.50 GPA/B+



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## Observations

- Is resulting in more applications
- Is resulting in more registered students
- LEAF strained relations a bit
- OK results academically – continue to watch
- Full steam ahead!



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# Questions

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