What is LEAP?
LEAP (Learning Enhancement for Academic Progress) is a program for 35 students selected by a committee of SLU faculty, staff, and administrators who carefully review the students' application, scores, responses to essay-type questions, and perhaps request a personal interview. The selected students will then attend a four-week program in the summer prior to the freshman year, designed to ease the transition from high school to college, and to provide academic support and skills training for students who need additional help in preparing for college success.

The experience will allow students to sharpen needed academic skills, learn time management skills, and experience the demands of college in a supportive environment. Students also have evening and weekend activities designed to enrich the learning process and allow the development of relationships with peers, faculty and staff.

Who should attend LEAP?
The LEAP program at Saint Leo University provides an opportunity for students who want to:
- Prepare for the academic challenges of Saint Leo University
- Improve reading, writing and critical thinking skills prior to the fall semester
- Improve time management and study skills
- Develop significant relationships with other students, faculty, and professional staff
- Become familiar with the university and with the resources for success available at SLU
- Enhance the Saint Leo community by performing acts of community service

What happens after LEAP?
LEAP students are monitored during the first year for academic progress using the Success Alert system, which sends notices to students' advisors throughout the semester so that early interventions may be initiated if needed. Students having difficulty in classes are required to meet with their advisor, attend learning labs and use the services of the Learning Resource Center. Peer mentors and tutors will also available to LEAP students on a one-on-one basis to assist students in succeeding, both academically and personally, at Saint Leo University.

When does LEAP start?
LEAP runs in the summer prior to the commencement of the fall term. For 2013, the program dates are July 15 through August 9.

What do LEAP students study?
The program courses include the following classes that fulfill program and graduation requirements for students:

- **English 121—Academic Writing I**. (3 credit hours)
  The techniques of effective writing, logical thinking, and intelligent reading, with special emphasis on expository writing. To ensure competence in oral communications, a speech component is included.

- **SLU 100—Introduction to the University Experience**. (3 credit hours)
  This course promotes the holistic success of our first-year students, emphasizing positive change. The course enables first-year students to commit themselves to inquiry and productive student learning by developing creative and critical thinking strategies, exploring complex and diverse issues of social justice locally and in a global society, fostering writing skills across the curriculum, and acquiring group dynamic, teamwork, and oral communication skills. In addition, students will learn to identify university resources available to them as well as the habits and skills necessary to make a successful transition from a high school to a university academic and social environment. The course will also enhance the students' knowledge, appreciation, and understanding of our Benedictine values and service to the community.

- **Learning Labs** (1 credit hour)
  Weekday evening tutoring/mentoring sessions are mandatory and are considered part of the academic program of LEAP.

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LEAP really got me prepared academically for the fall semester; it showed me how college academics were different from high school academics, and that really helped me adjust. Also I made some amazing friends; I actually met my present roommate during LEAP and we have become really close. LEAP also helped me become familiar with the campus, so I had a head start of all the other new freshmen. LEAP helped me get adjusted to the whole college life and living away from home; I felt a lot more grown up after LEAP. It was a great experience, although challenging; it really got me prepared in all aspects of college life.

Jocelyn Cipolla, Class of 2012

What is the program cost?
The LEAP program cost is approximately $3,000, which covers the following:

- Tuition for seven (7) credits toward the General Education requirements
- Residence hall room
- Dining services
- Tutoring and peer mentoring services
- Social activities, including trips to local attractions tied to academic course work.

The only additional costs—not covered in tuition—will be for books and supplies, estimated at approximately $400 and personal expenses.

Key Contact:
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Office of Academic Affairs
(352) 588-8497
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For more information about this program or about enrolling at Saint Leo University, please contact:
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