What is LEAP?
LEAP (Learning Enhancement for Academic Progress) is a program for a small group of 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 their entire career at Saint Leo 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. Certified Peer Educators/Mentors 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 2014, the tentative program dates are July 14th—August 8th

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—Intro. 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.

SLU 200—Academic Learning Lab (3 credit hours)
This three-credit course is a step in your growth and learning as a student. As you embark on this new stage of your academic and personal life, you will begin to realize and understand the role you play as an active learner. The course provides a framework of effective strategies to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. We will be assisting in your transition from high school to university. Using a collaborative learning format, we will explore many topics fundamental to being an effective learner, as well as being successful in university life. This course provides a support group for you by examining problems and issues common to your freshman experience in a supportive atmosphere somewhat less formal than that of traditional courses. Throughout this summer session, you will have the opportunity to connect with your fellow students, the University and the local community. You will see many connections with the SLU 200 and the other courses you are taking.

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**Wednesday Workshops**

**Wednesday Workshops** are an integral component of this course and will feature guest speakers along with seminars devoted to the following topics:

- Time management
- Self-motivation
- Personal responsibility
- Leadership
- Saint Leo core values

Attending LEAP in the summer of 2008 has helped me tremendously freshman year! Being a student at Saint Leo has been an easy transition from high school, not only because I was in LEAP, but everyone who works and attends SLU are caring, polite people who all want the best for each student on campus. LEAP had an intense work schedule, but it was completely do-able. The instructors and staff were always on our side, and only wanted to see each of us succeed. Coming back to SLU after LEAP for fall semester was easy for all LEAPers, while every other freshman was having the initial nervous thoughts LEAPers were there to comfort them assuring everyone they were going to love SLU and become the new members of our already close group.

*Jessica Cannon, Class of 2012*

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 none (9) credits toward the General Education requirements
- Residence hall room
- Dining services
- One-on-one services of certified Peer Educator/Mentors
- Social activities, including trips to local attractions tied to academic course work.

Required textbooks and school supplies are not covered in the program cost. Estimated costs at $500.00.

**Key Contact:**

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