



A Note from the Academic Director of KU Academic Accelerator Program

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When I began in my current position as the Academic Director for the Academic Accelerator Program (AAP), a new pathway program for international students at the University of Kansas, I knew I was embarking on an adventure. Much like travel, it has come with a few bumps in the road and some lost luggage - but it has also been an amazing opportunity to have new experiences and discover new friends and connections. Also like travel, it has been sometimes tedious and sometimes a whirlwind - so I am grateful for the sure guidance of many KU colleagues as we navigate through this journey together.

When my colleagues from outside of the University ask me about the AAP, and just what the Academic Director does, I usually begin the conversation with the (oversimplified) explanation that for many years there were two ways that degree-seeking international students could come to KU: if the students had a very high level of English proficiency, they could arrive and begin an academic program just as any domestic student might; or, if they had not yet met the University’s English as a second language requirement (ESL), they could come and take ESL classes at the Applied English Center (AEC). Advanced students at the AEC could concurrently enroll in ESL classes and General Education courses or courses in their academic program. The new pathway program provides the student with the opportunity to combine English and General Education coursework in one coherent program. As the Academic Director for AAP, I facilitate the coordination and delivery of the academic curriculum – a three term sequence of courses specifically designed for the program (please see Table 1 for an overview of the academic curriculum).

Table 1. KU Academic Accelerator Curriculum Map

Academic Accelerator Curriculum - Fall Entry					
Term 1 - Fall		Term 2 - Spring		Term 3 - Summer	
Course	C	Course	C	Course	C
<i>Acculturation Sequence</i>					
UNIV 102: Orientation Seminar	1	UNIV 103: Orientation Seminar	1	UNIV 104: Orientation Seminar	1
<i>English for Academic Purposes</i>					
AAP 101: English for Academic Purposes 1	6	AAP 102: English for Academic Purposes 2	3*		
AAP 111: Information Literacy	1	AAP 122: Grammar for Academic Purposes	1*		
AAP 121: Grammar for Academic Purposes	2				
<i>Academic Coursework</i>					
HWC 175: Kansas Environment & Culture	3	AMS 100: Intro to American Studies	3	COMS 130: Speaker Audience Communication	3
EVRN 170: Introduction to Kansas Landscapes	1	EVRN 171: Researching Kansas Landscapes	1	EVRN 172: Kansas Landscape Projects	1
MATH course	3-4	MATH course	3-4		
		Breadth course (1) selected from:	3	Breadth course (1) selected from:	3
		- HA 100: Intro to Art History		- HA 100: Intro to Art History	
		- POLS 170: Intro to International Politics		- POLS 170: Intro to International Politics	
		- BIOL 100: Principles of Biology		- BIOL 100: Principles of Biology	
Total hours	17-18		15-16		8

* 9 credit hours of AAP coursework may count towards a degree program in CLAS or BUS

What is most remarkable about the AAP is the integrated approach to providing students an experience that combines social and academic support, acculturation, academic English, and KU Core academic requirements in a one-year, immersive, integrated experience that transitions students into a sophomore year in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. By drawing together this wealth of resources that exist at KU - the extensive knowledge and experience of Applied English Center faculty, the expertise of International Student Services, the support of Undergraduate Studies units, and the strength of academic units across divisions in the College - and tying them into an intensive and intrusive advising and mentoring model where staff are connected and engaged with our students on a weekly basis, our goal is to provide AAP students with the best possible transition to a degree program at the University.

Soon, you will be able to find out more about us at aap.ku.edu. With assistance from KU Web Services, we are building a website with information and resources for faculty, staff, and students; a place where you can learn more about staff, students and faculty who are making this program a success. I look forward to sharing our stories, and continuing to learn together how to best serve our students.

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