7 May 2012

Dear LEAP students and parents,

Congratulations on being accepted into the Saint Leo University LEAP program for summer 2012. This year, the program will begin when you arrive for residential check-in on Saturday, July 14, from 10 am-2PM. A brief LEAP orientation for students and parents will follow at 3PM in Selby auditorium. The LEAP classes, SLU 100 and English 121, will begin on Monday, July 16 and run through August 10. There are several exciting and very important things you will need to know about the LEAP program and life at Saint Leo University, so please make certain to read this letter in its entirety and make note of all important dates listed and/or names of persons you may need to contact if you need more information or if you have any questions or concerns.

First, if you have any questions regarding your residence room or residence hall policy and procedure, please contact Mr. Sean VanGuilder, Associate Director of Campus Life for Residence Life at (352) 588 – 8268.

Secondly, if you have not already done so, please visit the Saint Leo University website at http://www.saintleo.edu/. From here, you will be able to access a campus map, directions from local airports and interstate highways, as well as local lodging, shopping, and dining information. The LEAP web page is also available at http://www.saintleo.edu/Academics/Other-University-Programs/LEAP-Learning-Enhancement-for-Academic-Progress

Next, here are some things you will need to know about LEAP and being a member of the Saint Leo University community. When you arrive for check in, you will be assigned to a residence room at the Marmion-Snyder Residence Hall. When you complete the LEAP program with a “C” grade or better in each of your two classes, this residence will be your permanent home for your first year of admission to Saint Leo University. As you begin your career here, therefore, you will need to bring any and all items you need and use at your own home, including clothes, bed clothes, shower supplies, etc. Cable television access, local telephone service and voice mail (bring your
own telephone), internet service, common area housekeeping, and laundry facilities are available at no additional charge to you. In addition, you will receive a lap top computer for school use when you arrive for orientation.

The LEAP program itself is a four week, intense preparation for academic life at Saint Leo University. It is by no means summer camp. You will be required to attend class from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 PM, four days per week. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be provided in the cafeteria in complement to your class schedule. In addition to classes, you will attend mandatory study and tutor sessions from 6 to 9PM four days per week and an additional eight hours on Wednesday. Included with the study/tutor period on Wednesday are workshops in such areas as study skills and self-motivation, leadership, time management and personal responsibility, health and well-being in college, Saint Leo University core values, and career planning. The mentors and tutors selected for this program include peer members who have made outstanding academic and extra-curricular progress at Saint Leo University and proudly represent and uphold the Saint Leo University core values of **excellence, community, respect, personal development, responsible stewardship, and integrity**.

The courses you will attend in LEAP are as follows:

**English 121—Academic Writing I. (3 credit hours)**
This course teaches 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.

The courses are taught by experienced Saint Leo University faculty members, committed to student success. Textbooks and additional materials may be purchased during the weekend of orientation; costs will be approximately $400.00.

In addition to academic requirements, the LEAP program will provide you with weekend activities including residence hall entertainment programming, such as pool parties and cook outs, and one supervised field trip. You will also be required to commit...
to university community service on Saturday mornings, under the direction of your Resident Assistants.

Finally, as you can see, the LEAP program is both exciting and challenging. It is your opportunity to succeed and be an integral, permanent part of the Saint Leo University community, making a huge leap ahead of your peers entering the university in the fall. You will have committed and talented faculty members, peer and professional tutors, resident assistants, and student service personnel available and responsible for your academic, spiritual, and personal needs. You will be living and achieving in a value-driven community that cares about your individual, personal growth and success. Welcome to Saint Leo University! I look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Heather De Ronde
Student Services Coordinator for Academic Advising
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