

Langara English for Academic Purposes (LEAP)

Department Overview

[Langara English for Academic Purposes \(LEAP\)](#) is an intensive ESL program designed to prepare students whose first language is not English for full-time study at English language universities and colleges.

Langara's ESL programming uses an integrated approach to language learning. Rather than teach skills in isolation we use a holistic methodology, combining speaking, listening, reading, and writing and focusing on a variety of relevant and interesting topics. Using a content-based curriculum, we engage students in activities that require the use of a variety of strategies to encourage authentic communication. This creates a dynamic, student-centred learning environment in which students acquire language in a natural and meaningful way. Gradually, students learn to approach classroom content the same way as Canadian students whose first language is English.

Projects and Presentations are an important part of each LEAP level as they encourage students to work creatively and cooperatively. In addition, projects and presentations integrate skills that students will need in university and college classrooms.

Self-Study

LEAP launched its program review in academic year 2023/24 with a Self-Study. Brenda Marson, Alison Marshall, Sandra Boehm, the Program Coordinators, and Lenke Sifko, the Director, were the primary Self-Study writers.

Additional support was provided by:

- Connie Chong (Dean, Continuing Studies)
- Sunita Wiebe (Director, Office of Academic Quality Assurance)
- Keegan Flick-Parker (Administrative Coordinator, Continuing Studies)
- Gina Fedalizo (Department Services Assistant, Continuing Studies)
- Elise Ng (Department Assistant, Office of Academic Quality Assurance)
- Integrated Planning and Accountability analysts

Data sources for the Self-Study included:

- Integrated Planning and Accountability-compiled student administrative data (*e.g.*, headcounts, retention, satisfaction)
- Student survey
- Alumni survey
- Faculty survey

The Self-Study was completed in May 2024.

External Review

LEAP's External Review took place on July 18, 2024. The External Review Team consisted of:

- Matt Rossington, Program Coordinator, Real Estate, Langara College Continuing Studies (External Review Chair)
- Jennifer Walsh Marr, Lecturer, UBC Vantage College
- Jennifer Cummins, Assistant Department Head, VCC

Action Plan Goals

In response to the Self-Study and External Review, LEAP created an Action Plan with these goals:

- Goal 1: Transform General Education's structure, including its social purpose, both to streamline admission and enrolment and, more importantly, to better and more holistically support our students.
- Goal 2: Envision a General Education program that intentionally supports the four lenses of Academic Plan 2025 and a flexible curriculum that better prepares our students for future work and study.
- Goal 3: Explore, improve upon, and forge new pathways to student success in General Education and beyond.
- Goal 4: Strengthen awareness of and investment in General Education as a pathway to student success and a site of transformational learning experiences for instructors and students.
- Goal 5: Nurture lasting relationships with General Education alumni that set a precedent for future work and study at snəweyəł leləm Langara College.

Examples of Post-Review Successes

Forthcoming.