

Terminology and admissions overview

This guide is designed to provide an introduction to University of Saskatchewan (USask) terminology and admission system.

COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

Every university has its own way of naming the units that operate their programs. These names include: colleges, faculties, schools, institutes, centres, etc. At USask, most are called colleges and schools.

PROGRAMS

Explore the programs available at USask.

Direct-entry program

Many academic programs allow students to enter directly after finishing high school. These are called direct-entry programs. These programs will have specific academic admission standards and English proficiency requirements but no university-level preparation courses are needed for admission. At USask, direct-entry programs are offered by the following colleges:

[Agriculture and Bioresources](#)

[Arts and Science](#)

[Education](#)

[Edwards School of Business](#)

[Engineering](#)

[Kinesiology](#)

Non-direct entry program

Non-direct entry programs require previous university study and cannot be applied to directly from high school. These programs are offered by the following colleges:

[Law](#)

[Nursing](#)

[Pharmacy and Nutrition](#)

Non-direct entry programs that are open only to Canadian citizens and permanent residents are offered by the following colleges:

[Dentistry](#)
[Medicine](#)
[Veterinary Medicine](#)

Note that [Dentistry](#) also accepts applications from U.S. citizens. [Veterinary Medicine](#) does not currently accept international applications for the 2023-2024 academic year.

ACADEMIC TERMS

The regular Academic Terms consist of two 13-week terms: Fall Term (September to December) and Winter Term (January to April). The Spring and Summer Terms consist of two seven-week terms: Spring (May to June) and Summer (July to August).

UNITS OF INSTRUCTION

Courses are assigned credit units. A typical full undergraduate course load during the Fall and Winter terms is a combined 30 credit units.

A credit unit is the basic unit of instruction. A typical two-term course that consists of approximately three hours per week is six credit units such as ENG 110.6 Literature and Composition. A single-term course is three credit units. For example, CMPT 317.3 Introduction to Artificial Intelligence.

TRANSFER CREDIT

If students have attended another post-secondary institution (a university, college or polytechnic), they might be able to use the academic credits from the classes they took towards a University of Saskatchewan degree. For classes taken outside of Canada, course syllabi and other information is required for [transfer evaluation](#).

ENGLISH STUDIES (ESL)

The [English for Academic Purposes \(EAP\) program](#) offered by the USask Language Centre helps students meet the English language proficiency requirement for admission to most USask degree programs.

Once enrolled at USask, students who would like to keep improving their English skills and learn about Canadian culture can enroll in [part-time ESL courses](#), but these do not count as credit units towards a degree.



ADMISSION TYPES

Early admission

Applicants can receive an early admission if they meet the required academic averages and the English proficiency requirement. Students can apply for early admission to [Education and Kinesiology by December 1](#).

Regular admission

All programs have their own academic admission requirements. All require international students or students whose first language is not English to show proof of English proficiency. Some programs have intakes only in the Fall Term, while others allow for a Winter, Spring or Summer intake during the academic year. Check [application and document deadlines](#) for each term and program.

Joint admission

Students who are academically qualified but do not meet the English proficiency requirement can still be admitted to any of our six direct-entry colleges. When applying to the university, they must select the [Joint Admission](#) option, where they will must apply to both the English for Academic Purposes program and an undergraduate degree program of their choice.

Once admitted, students will first study English in the USask Language Centre by enrolling in the [English for Academic Purposes program](#). Upon successful completion of the highest level of English study (Academic Success or University Bridging), they will automatically proceed into their degree studies. No additional application or additional English testing will be needed.

ADMISSION SYSTEM

Some colleges make admission decisions as completed applications come in until specified deadlines while other colleges process applications after the specified deadlines and offer admissions based on academic ranking of all applicants.

Rolling admission

Under this system, a student can be given an admission decision as soon as all required documents have been received. Agriculture and Bioresources (including Animal Bioscience), Arts and Science, Edwards School of



Business and Engineering use rolling admission for all degree programs and they allow for both regular admission and joint admission.

Ranking-based admission

Education and Kinesiology offer a specific number of seats for new students (new to the university or internal transfers). These programs normally have only one admission date per year. Applicants are ranked based on their admission average. Beginning with the highest ranked individual, applicants will be offered seats in the program they have requested until all the available spaces are filled.

Both regular and joint admission are available.

ADMISSION INTAKES

Some colleges admit students to start at one term each year; others may allow students to start at multiple terms.

College	Admission intake	Admission system
Arts and Science	Fall (September), Winter (January), Spring (May), Summer (July)	Rolling admission
Agriculture and Bioresources	Fall (September), Winter (January)	Rolling admission
Agriculture and Bioresources – Animal Bioscience	Fall (September)	Rolling admission
Education	Fall (September)	Ranking-based admission
Edwards School of Business	Fall (September), Winter (January), Spring (May), Summer (July)	Rolling admission
Engineering	Fall (September), Spring (May), Summer (July)	Rolling admission
Kinesiology	Fall (September)	Ranking-based admission



APPLICATIONS FOR JOINT ADMISSION

All six direct-entry colleges—including [Agriculture and Bioresources](#), [Arts and Science](#), [Education](#), [Edwards School of Business](#), [Engineering](#), and [Kinesiology](#)—consider joint admission applications.

English for Academic Purposes has [three intakes](#) each year, each with its own application deadline that differ from other application deadlines.

ADMISSION LETTERS

Admission letters issued for early or regular admission

The admission letter clearly indicates the program the student is admitted to, admission term and the program start date. It also specifies the deadline to accept the offer of admission.

Letters of offer are conditional if the students have not yet graduated from high school or need to meet requirements such as English proficiency. Additional “conditions” outlined in the letter need to be cleared prior to class registration. For example, “Your final admission average must not fall below the admission cut-off average for your college” or “You must arrange for your official IB transcripts to be sent directly to the University of Saskatchewan by the IB organization by 01/Aug/202XX”.

After conditions are fulfilled and verified by the Admissions Office, admitted students will be notified of their full admission status by email. However, they will not receive a new revised unconditional letter of admission.

Admission letters issued for joint admission

Students who apply for joint admission will receive two admission letters: one for the English for Academic Purposes (EAP) program and the other for their degree program of choice.

Sometimes students are surprised to see both admission letters indicate the same start term of study. This is not a mistake. It’s because students will begin studying at the university on the date they start their English course. The English program is the first step in the student’s study program at the university. Admitted applicants will become USask students beginning on the date when the English program begins.

QUESTIONS?

For questions related to programs and application process, contact our team at admissions@usask.ca.

