BILLIKEN BRIDGE TO SUCCESS

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Billiken Bridge to Success Program (BBS) is an intensive, three-week academic experience for students conditionally admitted to Saint Louis University. It is a highly selective opportunity offered to less than 15% of prospective applicants. Approximately 30 freshmen attend BBS each year. As a summer bridge program, it accelerates students’ transition into SLU. Through courses, service and community building, students hone academic skills, develop self-awareness and learn teamwork and other skills critical for success. Also, BBS functions as the first module of intentional programming that continues through the first year.

DATES:
JULY 27 – AUG. 18

Taught by SLU faculty, the course serves as an introduction to college-level literacy practices, including reading and writing. Teachers work with students to achieve the highest English course placement for the fall term. To enhance the collaborative learning experience, students continue with the same teacher into the “150-190 Stretch,” a two-course sequence. This means that the student and teacher can build on their learning partnership in ENGL-150 and ENGL-190 in the fall and spring terms, respectively.

Seminars are used to enrich the students’ educational experiences inside and outside of the classroom. Topics have included sustainability, financial literacy, multiculturalism and leadership.
MATHEMATICS
(BBS Grade. 0 Credit Hours)

This course focuses on refreshing math skills. It challenges students to demonstrate their readiness for the highest math course recommended for the fall term. Otherwise the math department directs students based on their ACT/SAT math scores.

WORLD OF WORK
(BBS Grade. PSY-193, 1 Credit Hour, Letter Grade)

This course is taught by Career Services professionals, who introduce students to various industries, the global economy, and potential careers based on their interests. In addition, the Career Service professionals counsel students on the corresponding educational paths they’ll need to reach their ultimate career goals. Students will have the opportunity to complete self assessments that help them begin focusing on “life beyond SLU” and how SLU’s educational opportunities can support their aspirations.

METHODS OF INQUIRY
(BBS Grade. AS-093, 2 Credit Hours, Letter Graded)

This interdisciplinary course is team taught by three professors representing the disciplines of humanities, social sciences, and applied sciences. In this project-based course, teams work closely with faculty both on and off campus to complete and present their proposals and attend related seminars to supplement their professors’ materials. Throughout the course, students will hone their research intelligence, which will serve as a core skill for their academic life at SLU.
Throughout the BBS program, students will stay in campus residence halls and get a pre-taste of college living. Students will have a roommate from the BBS program and will move in on Sunday, July 27. Those who plan to live on campus during the fall semester will move to their new living space on Saturday, August 16. Students who will commute in the fall will move out on Saturday, August 16. Meals will be served in the residence hall. For more information about registering for housing, refer to the Frequently Asked Questions.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

Each student is scheduled to meet with their academic advisor to address and further explore interests, concerns, course registration, problem solving, and opportunities.
Building a bridge to success involves engaging the community through service, recreation, and learning. Students will explore their new surroundings and visit famous sites such as Forest Park, a world class urban park larger than New York’s Central Park, The Muny Amphitheatre, St. Louis Gateway Arch and may even take in a Cardinals baseball game!

**Community Building**

BBS involves living and learning that fosters community and teamwork through programming. Students become more aware of self, the challenges of communal living and learning, and the resources necessary for fostering growth.

**Financing BBS**

The program cost is $2,800. This includes tuition, housing and two meals (breakfast or lunch and dinner) for three weeks. Lunch is not included but the fee includes activities. For financial aid consideration, please submit to SLU the free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov. SLU’s FAFSA code is 002506. Refer to frequently asked questions for payment options.
Saint Louis University’s Student Educational Services (SES) oversees the Billiken Bridge to Success program (BBS) and offers several other multifaceted resources for SLU students, such as the federally funded TRiO program. The TRiO program provides resources to first generation college students and students who meet federal income guidelines. Such resources include proactive academic advising and support for those admitted through BBS or those participating in the TRiO program.

**SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY STUDENT EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

All BBS students are required to self-select and participate in one of SLU’s Learning Communities (LCs). Learning Communities are available to commuter and residential students and are a great way to meet people and make friends that have similar interests. LCs are groups of students that live together on a floor or several floors of a residence hall and are tied to an academic area or program (for example, Engineering), or a common interest (for example, The Arts). Students that are admitted to the BBS program will be asked to choose their top three LC choices. If you are a student who will be living on campus, you will also be asked to list your three top preferences on your housing application.

- The Arts Learning Community
- Careers and Majors Exploration Learning Community
- Diversity & Unity Learning Community
- Global Villa Learning Community
- Life Sciences Learning Community
- Leadership and Social Change Learning Community
- Engineering Learning Community (Restricted to engineering students ONLY)
- Ethical Leaders in Business Learning Community (Restricted to business students ONLY)
- Health Sciences Learning Community (Restricted to students in the Doisy College of Health Sciences or the School of Nursing ONLY)

BBS students will also be required to participate in the Billiken Connections First-Year Interest Group (FIG). The FIG is a group of two courses (EDH 101: University 101 and ENGL 150: English) that students will take together during the fall semester. Students will build their class schedule around these two FIG courses to avoid scheduling conflicts. Because students will be taking these courses together, this is a fantastic way to quickly form study groups.

For more on Learning Communities at SLU, go to slu.edu/x67495.xml
SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION

In order to successfully complete the BBS program and begin the fall semester as a SLU student, the BBS student must meet the conditions required for academics, student financial services, and the office of student responsibility and community standards.

ACADEMICALLY, EACH STUDENT WILL COMPLETE THE BBS PROGRAM WITH ONE OF TWO STATUSES:

(1) Successful completion or
(2) Unsuccessful completion with an opportunity to petition in writing for admission to SLU under SES departmental probation.

The petition may be approved or denied at the discretion of the SLU office of admission. Academically, in order to successfully complete the BBS program, students must fully participate in the program and earn at least a “C” or above in all courses.

ALSO, CONSISTENT WITH SYLLABI, THE STUDENT MUST DO THE FOLLOWING:

(1) Attend and engage in all course sessions and associated activities;
(2) Attend and participate in all programmatic activities, workshops, and events.

The appropriate instructor or facilitator will determine active participation in each activity. In order to receive an excused absence from any activity that is not directly affiliated with an academic course, the student must obtain written permission from the BBS Coordinator; otherwise the absence is unexcused. An unexcused absence will affect a student’s completion status. The student must also adhere to the SLU Student Handbook policies and must have completed financial arrangements by July 1.

CURRICULUM & SAMPLE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

The Billiken Bridge to Success program presents a thematic, interdisciplinary, project-based curriculum. Students will engage in academic and social programming seven days a week. In addition to English and Mathematics, subjects span the Humanities, Social Sciences, Applied Sciences, and research. These are complimented by interactive seminars and community building activities.

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<th>MONDAY – THURSDAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>7 – 7:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
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<td>8 a.m. – 12 p.m.</td>
<td>English and Mathematics</td>
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<td>12 – 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch &amp; Advising</td>
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<td>1:30 – 5 p.m.</td>
<td>World of Work and Methods of Inquiry</td>
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<td>5 – 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>6:30 – 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
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<td>7:30 – 9 p.m.</td>
<td>Learning Sessions</td>
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<td>9 – 10 p.m.</td>
<td>Flex 7:30</td>
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<td>11 p.m.</td>
<td>Goodnight</td>
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**BBS FAQs**

**WHO PARTICIPATES IN THE BILLIKEN BRIDGE TO SUCCESS PROGRAM?**
The Office of Admission offers this opportunity for conditional admission to applicants whose application shows promise but does not meet all expectations, often related to test scores or grades.

**HOW DO I PAY FOR THE PROGRAM?**
When paying the Billiken Bridge to Success fee, you may pay the total amount due or pay in two installments (due June 1, July 1) by choosing the summer installment payment plan through your “MySLU” portal. There will be a 1% installment plan fee added to your billing statement if you choose this option. In order to start the BBS program, full payment is due July 1.

**DO I NEED TO REGISTER FOR BBS HOUSING, AND IF SO, HOW?**
Yes. Students register for BBS housing through SLU’s Housing and Residence Life website at slu.edu/x18978.xml. The summer housing deposit is waived for BBS. In the housing application, select the dates that include BBS dates (7/27-8/18). Please complete the application as soon as possible. During the BBS program, students will live together in the same residence hall. On Saturday, Aug. 16, 2014, students will move into their Fall/Spring residential living space.

**DO STUDENTS RECEIVE COLLEGE CREDIT?**
Students have the opportunity to earn six hours of college credit. However, all credit hours may not count toward all specific graduation requirements.

**I PLAN TO COMMUTE TO SLU, DO I HAVE TO LIVE ON CAMPUS FOR BBS?**
Yes. BBS is a residential program, participants live on campus and the cost includes housing.

**WHAT IS SLU 101?**
SLU 101 is a two-day orientation program that all SLU freshmen attend. You will meet your academic advisor and begin registration for fall classes. SLU 101 orientations conclude July 1.

For more on SLU101, visit slu.edu/x12107.xml

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<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>7 – 7:45 a.m. Breakfast</td>
<td>8 – 8:45 a.m. Breakfast</td>
<td>10 – 11 a.m. Brunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>a.m. – 12 p.m. English and Mathematics</td>
<td>9 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Seminars</td>
<td>11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Flex</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 – 1:30 p.m. Lunch &amp; Advising</td>
<td>12:30 – 5 p.m. Lunch &amp; Activities</td>
<td>5 – 6 p.m. Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 – 2:30 p.m. World of Work</td>
<td>5 – 6 p.m. Dinner</td>
<td>6 – 6:45 p.m. Flex</td>
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<td>2:30 – 5 p.m. Methods of Inquiry &amp; Advising</td>
<td>6 p.m. – 12 a.m. Activities</td>
<td>7 – 10 p.m. Learning Sessions</td>
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<td>5 – 6:30 p.m. Break</td>
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WHAT TO BRING

Students will need to bring the following items in order to live more comfortably in the residence hall. Limiting your packing to what is needed for the three-weeks will make your BBS move-in and move-out easier.

1. Pillow  
2. Sheets (twin long)  
3. Walking shoes  
4. Cap or sunhat  
5. Robe and toiletries  
6. Laundry items  
7. Jacket  
8. Umbrella  
9. Medications  
10. Alarm clock  
11. Small trash can  
12. Telephone  
13. School supplies  
14. Pool items  
15. Computer  

( Labs are available. )

If living on campus beginning in the Fall, please visit Housing and Residence Life online for more at:

slu.edu/beabilliken/check-list-dorm-supplies

CHECKLIST

- Submit FAFSA (federal school code 002506)  
- Activate your SLUNet ID & SLUNet ID password  
- Pay $450 enrollment deposit  
- Register for SLU101 summer orientation  
( see admission packet )  
- Register for BBS summer housing  
- Apply for fall housing  
- Submit your top three preferred Learning Communities at slu.edu/x47517.xml  
- Submit other documents as required for admission ( see admission packet )  
- Arrive for BBS on Sunday, July 27, 2014

QUESTIONS?

Additional information about the Billiken Bridge to Success and registering for the fall semester courses will be addressed during SLU 101.

OFFICE OF ADMISSION  
314-977-2500 or 800-SLU-FOR-U

STUDENT EDUCATIONAL SERVICES  
314-977-2930

STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES  
314-977-2350

PARKING & CARD SERVICES  
314-977-3471