

Memorandum

To: Academic Policies Committee

From: The Office of International Programs

Date: December 14, 2017

Subject: IEP Non-Degree Track Proposal

The Office of International Programs (OIP) is proposing a non-degree track for the Intensive English Program (IEP) at Southern Oregon University. The OIP is requesting approval from the Academic Policies Committee (APC) to create this second and independent IEP track with the goals of:

- remaining competitive with the majority of university-based IEPs,
- creating an additional recruitment channel,
- expanding SOU's international alumni ambassador program around the globe,
- increasing the international diversity of the campus community, and
- generating an additional, sustainable revenue stream for SOU.

In May 2017, an expert in the TESOL field conducted a comprehensive review of our Intensive English Program. The external review confirmed our competitive advantage; we offer international students the opportunity to improve their academic English through a high quality program in a university setting. By creating this additional track, we are asking to capitalize on that strength for the benefit of the whole university.

The principal message of the reviewer's final report underscored the need to open up SOU's IEP to non-degree students. At present, all students who attend our IEP must first be admitted to the university whether they are exchange students from a partner university or international students seeking an undergraduate or graduate degree from SOU. This means that our IEP enrollment is limited to only those international students who have met all SOU admission standards except for the minimum English proficiency requirement. After successful completion of IEP Level 6, students are permitted to commence academic studies at SOU.*

The parallel track would mirror other university-based IEP programs. It would allow us to expand the program to include non-degree and non-exchange students without conflicting with or compromising our IEP degree/exchange program track. IEP non-degree track students will pay quarterly student fees and have full access to university resources (ex. residence halls, recreation center, and library). However, the Office of International Programs will ensure non-degree IEP students understand their admission is restricted to attending the Intensive English Program.

While the intention would be to convert the non-degree students to degree-seeking students, the application process and fee structure would be completely separate. The non-degree track would require students to be at least 18 years of age, to have a high school diploma, and to attend for a minimum of one quarter. If a non-degree student decided to remain at SOU to pursue a degree, that student would be required to submit an SOU international student application and meet all admission criteria. Once admitted to SOU, students would also be subject to paying the one-time matriculation fee.

In closing, the staff of the Office of International Programs and Intensive English Program requests endorsement from the APC to launch this initiative. We are excited about the prospect of expanding the IEP program for the betterment of the SOU campus community and its long-term fiscal health.

*Current SOU IEP students who take the IELTS or TOEFL and achieve SOU's minimum English Language proficiency score for full admission are not required to complete Level 6.