

A Division of Academic Support Programs & Services,
the Academic Resource Collaborative,
and the Office of the Provost

Summit @



Photo by Jody McIntyre

NO SHORTCUTS. NO EXCUSES. NO LIMITS.

Welcome to the Summit Program!

What is the Summit Program?

Summit is a unique program at La Salle University that provides structured support within a challenging academic setting to selected first-year students.

How are students placed in the Summit Program?

Our Summit Program students are first-year students with high potential for academic success, although their admissions files may show some combination of low SAT/ACT scores, low grades in one or more subjects, a low GPA, or one or more other academic risk factors.

Why Summit?

Many first-year students struggle with the transition from high school to college. High school uses a “GPS model of knowledge,” in which students are given explicit instruction on how to get from Point A to Point B and then expected to replicate those steps during testing. College professors, however, tend to use the “map model of knowledge”; they expect their students to understand the big picture, including how to navigate around detours and obstacles without additional guidance. La Salle’s Summit Program provides additional resources and services to support students through that often-difficult transition.



Photo by Mattio



Photo by Iwona Kellie

We are always happy to discuss the Summit Program by phone, by e-mail, on Facebook, or in person.

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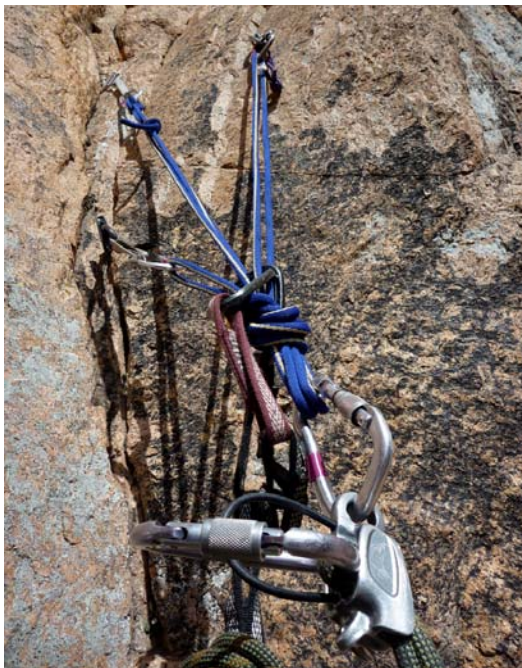


Photo by Laurel Fan

Understanding Our Constellation of Services

Summit staff members serve as “belayers” who help keep students academically secure as they climb toward their academic goals during their first year. Here’s how we do it.

What kind of support do students in the Summit Program receive?

1. Summit Academic Boot Camp, plus supplemental FYO 100 activities.

- Summit students must complete and submit all Academic Boot Camp activities and assignments. The grades for these assignments count toward the students’ FYO 100 course. FYO 100 is required for ALL first-year La Salle students.
- Summit students must complete and submit all additional FYO 100 activities required during Fall 2017 as described in the FYO syllabus.

2. Two Summit-specific Foundation Courses, INST 105 and INST 106.

- INST 105 and INST 106 introduce Summit students to a college-level workload, with attention to critical reading, thinking, and writing. Students are expected to analyze, critique, and evaluate readings both in class discussion and in writing.
- INST 105 (Fall 2017) and INST 106 (Spring 2018) each count toward graduation requirements as a 3-credit elective.
- Summit courses are hosted in the Integrative Studies (INST) department because our courses cover a central theme from the perspective of multiple academic disciplines, like Religion, History, Journalism, Education, Economics, Nursing, and Sociology. Exploring current issues from different viewpoints allows students to become familiar both with challenging texts and with the expectations, assumptions, and arguments used in different majors.

3. Intensive Advising

- Summit students must meet at least **THREE** times per semester with Shaena Moody for academic advising.
- Academic advising involves a broad range of guidance including questions about how current courses are going, plans for next semester’s coursework, discussions of whether a major is a good fit for a student, and connections to campus resources of all kinds.

4. Required Academic Support

- Summit students must complete **TWO** hours per week of Academic Support.
- Eligible academic support includes writing tutoring, subject tutoring, facilitated study groups, academic coaching, supplemental instruction reviews, critical literacy fellow reviews, attendance at academic workshops, and attendance at supervised work sessions.

5. Early Warning of Academic Risk

- Summit students must earn a Fall 2017 GPA of at least 2.0.
- Summit students must earn INST 105 and INST 106 grades of C- or better.
- Students should also be aware of any GPA requirements in their major.
- Our staff tracks each student’s progress using La Salle’s Early Alert System and midterm grades. Students at risk of not meeting these requirements will receive a warning letter just after midterm.

What happens if a student does not meet Summit obligations?

- Students who do not meet GPA or grade requirements are suspended from the University at the end of the Fall 2017 semester. Students who earn a GPA above 1.5 and a grade of D or above in INST 105 may be eligible for probation instead of suspension.
- Students in these circumstances will receive notification as soon as Fall 2017 grades are released.

Do students need to make up coursework if they are in the Summit Program?



Photo by Maria Li

The Summit Program formerly required students to take a reduced course load during the Fall semester of their first year. Changes to several popular University majors have made it more difficult for Summit students to maintain academic progress in those majors without extensive summer coursework. The limited course load also gave students no “cushion” if they needed to withdraw from a course.

After much reflection, we will allow Summit students to choose to take a full course load in their Fall semester, although this decision increases the difficulty of students’ transition to college.

- ⇒ Students in some majors may still need to take summer courses to maintain progress in the major.
- ⇒ Students may need to take additional courses if they withdraw from a course or do not pass a course with a satisfactory grade.

Shaena Moody will work with each student individually to make recommendations and plans for fulfilling necessary coursework before sophomore year. If a student decides to complete summer coursework for any reason, many Core classes can be approved to be taken at a community college closer to the student’s home.