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## The Arts Experience

Article submitted by Public Affairs

This fall, Okanagan College will offer an innovative new way for students to complete the Associate Degree of Arts.

The Arts Experience (ArtsX) program was designed by faculty to provide an avant-garde learning option for the two-year university-transferable Associate of Arts Degree. A group of up to 30 students will flow through core course curriculum collectively, but it's how they will learn that makes the difference.

"We wanted to provide students with a non-traditional learning experience that encourages the pursuit of deeper questions, understanding connections, and exploration of creative and bold ideas," explains Sharon Josephson, Okanagan College Professor in Communications, and ArtsX instructor. "Rather than go course to course with a fixed timetable, the group of students will learn in a collaborative environment that empowers them to take an active role in their learning."

"This program is geared to students who have a strong sense of self-directedness, curiosity, creativity, and who aren't afraid to be bold," adds Josephson.

Students will benefit from increased one-on-one time with instructors. Being with the same classmates for the duration of the two-year program helps foster a trusting learning environment, and a true sense of community. The result is increased conversation, engagement, and sharing of ideas. The program will have an emphasis on collaborative teaching and learning, multidisciplinary courses, alternative grading, and beyond-the-classroom education.

"We designed the program with the student in mind," says Jake Kennedy, Okanagan College Professor in English, and ArtsX instructor. "It will particularly appeal to students who aren't afraid to try, risk, and learn from making some mistakes along the way. The focus is on the process of learning and having them take what they learn and apply it analytically to look at how our society works."

The success of non-traditional learning programs adopted by institutions including Quest University, Brown University, Stanford University, and En'owkin Centre sparked the inspiration for creating a new learning model that would appeal to the diverse range of Okanagan College students. It aims to provide a progressive and innovative education option for those in our community.

Those students who have received admission into the Associate of Arts Degree program at Okanagan College will be given an opportunity to apply to this limited enrolment program and complete their studies through ArtsX. Information sessions about the program will be offered in May and June at the Kelowna campus. For additional program details, please visit [www.okanagan.bc.ca/artsx](http://www.okanagan.bc.ca/artsx) or email Sharon ([sjosephson@okanagan.bc.ca](mailto:sjosephson@okanagan.bc.ca)) and Jake directly ([jkennedy@okanagan.bc.ca](mailto:jkennedy@okanagan.bc.ca)).



Okanagan College  
Registrar's Office

[www.okanagan.bc.ca/registrar](http://www.okanagan.bc.ca/registrar)

## Jump Start

Jump Start sessions at each of the four campuses are underway, welcoming students who are new to Okanagan College. Sessions will take place throughout the summer for students who will be beginning their studies at the College this Fall. Each campus organizes campus tours and advising sessions to help new students transition to College.

Direct new students to [www.okanagan.bc.ca/jumpstart](http://www.okanagan.bc.ca/jumpstart) for more information.



## Kick Off to Orientation 2015

Planning for new student orientation in September has begun at all four campuses. Consider volunteering to help out and join in the fun of seeing new students arriving on campus, eager to start their educational journey.

Visit [okanagan.bc.ca/orientation](http://okanagan.bc.ca/orientation) for more details about orientation day and to find a link to volunteer in Kelowna. To volunteer at other campuses, please contact the orientation committee on each campus.

## May and June 2015

### Education Council News

Below is a brief update on items approved at Education Council in May and June. Please view the *Items Approved* or *Minutes* for details.

### New Programs

#### Gastroenterology Nursing Certificate

There is an increasing demand for nurses with formal training and certification and no alternative for training other than a self-study program.

Proposed date of implementation is September 2015.

### Program Revisions

#### Aircraft Maintenance Engineer Category 5 (Structures)

Course codes must match those used by Transport Canada.

#### Health Care Assistant

Admission requirements will be changed to align with the B.C. Care Aide Registry.

Proposed date of implementation is September 2015.

#### Computer Information Systems Diploma

The systems option in the program will be removed and courses in the second year will be changed to reflect the order in which they are offered.

Proposed date of implementation is September 2015.

#### Bachelor of Computer Information Systems

A general studies option will be added and the computer studies option will be removed. Courses within NTEN and the Associate of Science programs used for laddering into BCIS will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Proposed date of implementation is September 2015.

#### Network and Telecommunications Engineering Technology Diploma

In order to keep up with changes in the industry, courses that are no longer required will be deleted, new material and a new course will be added.

Proposed date of implementation is September 2015.

#### Civil, Electronic, Mechanical and Water Engineering Technology programs

Graduation requirements for each program will be added to the Calendar.

Proposed date of implementation is September 2015.

#### Diploma in Environmental Studies

New courses will be added as well as a new stream: Geographic Information Science.

Proposed date of implementation is September 2015.

#### Media and Cultural Studies

The program will be given a new name: Diploma in Communications, Culture, and Journalism Studies, and will be revised to improve transferability for students.

Proposed date of implementation is September 2015.

### New Courses

- NTEN 123 - Network Applications of Analog and Digital Systems
- GEOG 172 - Map Use, Design and Analysis
- GEOG 278 - Applied GIScience and Environmental Project Management

### Course Revisions

- COSC 109 - Technical Aspects of Operating Systems

- COSC 118 - Networks and Telecommunications I
- COSC 213 - Web Development with LAMP
- COSC 224 - Projects in Computer Science
- COSC 232 - Information System Security
- COSC 250 - Digital System Design
- COSC 305 - Project Management
- COSC 318 - Network Programming
- COSC 328 - Linux Networking
- COSC 350 - Microprocessor Programming and Control
- COSC 417 - Topics in Computer Networks
- COSC 470 - Software Engineering
- COSC 471 - Software Engineering Project
- COST 011 - Computer Studies 011
- COST 012 - Computer Studies 012
- ECON 271 - Environmental and Natural Resource Economics
- NTEN 112 - Computer Programming I
- NTEN 113 - Voice and Data Communications Infrastructure
- NTEN 207 - Enterprise Communications
- NTEN 221 - Fundamentals of Wireless Networking
- NTEN 228 - Scripting for Network and System Administrators
- NTEN 299 - Network Project
- GEOG 272 - Introduction to Cartography, GIS and Remote Sensing

The next regular Education Council meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2015.

Details of EdCo approvals can be found at: [www.okanagan.bc.ca/edco](http://www.okanagan.bc.ca/edco).

*Please note that all new programs and all program changes require Board*

*approval.*

## Scheduling Office News

### 2015-16 Academic Schedule

Due to several factors, the production of next year's academic timetable is behind schedule.

Numerous changes are still being received and are being processed as quickly as possible.

It is anticipated that the 2015-16 schedule will be released for general availability in mid-June. Until the schedule is generally available, Classfinder will not be available.



## Registration Update

### Time Tickets

Students will begin receiving time tickets by email in mid-June letting them know the date they are able to register for classes. This information will also be posted in their myOkanagan accounts. Registration will begin July 6.

### AACP Registration Information

Here is a breakdown of registration dates for all AACP students:

#### Penticton

- continuing AACP students: July 6
- new AACP students: August 24

#### Kelowna

- continuing AACP students: July 6
- new AACP students: July 9

#### Vernon

- continuing AACP students: July 6

- new AACP students: August 24

#### Salmon Arm

- new and continuing AACP students: August 24

## Staff Updates

Welcome Melanie! The Registrar's Office would like to welcome Melanie Wasilenkoff to the Recruitment team. Melanie joined the team on June 9 as the Recruitment and Events Assistant at the Penticton campus.

Melanie is a recent graduate of the College's BBA program. She is originally from Castlegar and has held positions at the Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute at Selkirk College and at Okanagan College where she was a Research Assistant working on the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan.



We are also looking forward to another member joining the team as the Recruitment and Events Assistant at the Kelowna campus. We are currently finalizing details and the expected start date is June 22.



## CRM Schedule

The following emails have gone and are scheduled to go out over the next month:

Email	Scheduled date
Jump Start invites	Beginning in mid-May
Distance Education exam schedule	May 20, 2015
Available Aboriginal student awards	May 19, 2015
Promotional email for new Bookkeeping Certificate	June 1, 2015
Arts, Science and Business deposit reminder	June 1, 2015
Summer Session II fee payment reminder	June 5, 2015
Salmon Arm Business Information session	June 9, 2015
SIDIT entrance awards	June 16, 2015
ClassFinder now available	Mid-June
Student Aid apps now open	Mid-June
Jump Start invites (all campuses)	Throughout the month of June
Registration time tickets	Beginning mid-June and continuing daily until mid-July
Online Jump Start information	June 23, 2015
Waitlisted trades: apps open for Summer 2016 on August 1	June 23, 2015
Transfer credit deadline	June 24, 2015
Vocational fee payment deadline reminder	Ongoing, one week prior to the deadline
Student Loan hold approved	Ongoing, daily
Checklist items outstanding (admissions)	Ongoing, every Friday

Please keep in mind that many email requests continue to come in and therefore, this does not cover all emails sent.

To request a CRM be sent, visit your myOkanagan account > Employee tab > Requests and Notices > CRM Request. **Reminder: We require two weeks' notice in order to prepare and slot the email into the schedule.**

## June 2015

- 16** Salmon Arm Jump Start Advising session - 4:30 p.m., Vernon Jump Start Advising session - 4:30 p.m., Penticton Jump Start Campus Tour - 6 p.m. and Advising Session - 7 p.m.
- 18** OCSU student BBQ (11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.) and Employee BBQ (4 p.m. start)
- 23** Kelowna Jump Start Advising session - 5 p.m. and Campus Tour - 6:30 p.m., Salmon Arm Jump Start Campus Tour - 12 and 4:30 p.m.
- 26** Regular classes and final exams end for Summer Session I
- 29** Last day to submit final grades for Summer Session I

## July 2015

- 6** Classes begin for Summer Session II
- 10** Last day to: receive a refund for course drop, register for a Session II course, drop a course without a withdrawal being recorded
- 21** Kelowna Jump Start Campus Tour - 5 p.m.
- 24** Last day to submit a grade appeal for Summer Session I