

Canada - Saskatchewan

STRUCTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

Description:

Higher education in Canada is the constitutional responsibility of the provinces. In Saskatchewan, the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour has responsibility for higher education. The higher (postsecondary) system includes two universities with four federated and seven affiliated colleges; Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIASST), the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT), Dumont Technical Institute (DTI), seven regional colleges and one inter provincial college under Alberta legislation, Lakeland College; the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commition (SATCC); and many private vocational schools.

The universities grant undergraduate and graduate degrees in the professions, Arts, Sciences, and Humanities. SIASST and SIIT deliver a wide range of Certificate and Diploma skill training programs intended to lead directly to employment. SATCC contracts SIASST and other training institutions to deliver apprenticeship and technical training. Regional Colleges, located throughout the province in seven distinct geographic regions, broker university and SIASST credit courses, and other courses, through contracts with the credit granting institutions.

The universities are autonomous institutions, governed by boards and responsible for their own administrative, academic, and financial affairs in accordance with the respective university Acts. SIASST, SATCC, and the regional colleges operate at arm's length from government under their own boards of directors and trustees, respectively. SIIT operates under the legislated authority of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN). All parts of the higher education system are governed by acts of the provincial legislature. The Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research Inc. (GDI) is the official education, research and development arm of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan. GDI is affiliated with the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina and federated with SIASST. Its programs include the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP), a four year, fully accredited Bachelor of Education program. The Dumont Technical Institute arm of GDI is responsible for Adult Basic Education, skills training, vocational and cultural programs. The Gabriel Dumont College arm of GDI offers the first two years of a Bachelor of Arts and Science degree. The Northern Teacher Education Program and Northern Professional Access College (NORTEP/PAC) is an off-campus institution that is accredited by the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina (and First Nations University of Canada). NORTEP/PAC currently offers four programs in Northern Saskatchewan; the four-year Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) program; Education students may attend a fifth year and obtain a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) as well; a Master's Program (M.ED) in Curriculum and Development; and NORPAC offers three years of university arts and sciences courses designed to prepare Northerners for entry into the two universities or other post-secondary programs.

Stages of studies:

University level first stage: Bachelor's Degree

Most undergraduate study leads to a Bachelor's Degree (minimum 3 or 4 years) or an "Honours" Degree (minimum 4 years) with a major subject concentration. Degrees are normally labelled in broad descriptive groups such as Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) and Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.). The first stage also includes undergraduate Diplomas (1 3 years of study) and short (up to 1 year) special Certificate programmes, frequently in close cooperation with professional bodies. Undergraduate professional programmes that require no university level pre requisites, such as Bachelor of Commerce (B.Com.), and Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.), require 4 years of study. Some first and second year university courses are offered by the universities off campus through provincially supported regional colleges, GDI, NORTEP/PAC, and SIASST.

University level second stage: Master's Degree

The Master's Degree normally requires two years study after a Bachelor's Degree or equivalent. A thesis and course-work are usually required. Examples are: Master of Arts (M.A.), Master of Science (M.Sc.), Master of Education (M.Ed.) and Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.).

There are also graduate-level Diplomas (considered intermediate between the Bachelor's or first professional degree and the Master's Degree). Second stage programmes also includes first professional degree programmes requiring one to two years of prerequisite university studies, followed by three to four years, such as Bachelor of Law (LL.B.), Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.).

University level third stage: Doctorate

The Doctorate is the highest academic qualification awarded by universities and comprises the third stage of university level studies. This Degree normally requires at least 3 years of study after the Master's Degree; the submission and defence of a major thesis (dissertation) are the principal requirements, and supplemental course work. "Doctor of Philosophy" (Ph.D.) is the generic title used to signify the Doctorate Degrees in most disciplines. (The Doctorate should not be confused with titles attributed to certain first professional degrees in the Health Sciences, such as Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Dentistry.)

Distance higher education:

Regional colleges, located throughout the province, offer programmes available over the Saskatchewan Communications Network (SCN) by television and satellite.

ADMISSION TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Admission to non university higher education studies:

Alternatives to credentials: SIAST offers mature adult admission for applicants, 19 years of age or older, who do not meet the usual entrance requirements. They may be admitted on the basis of probable success established through interviews and aptitude/ability tests.

Other requirements: For the apprenticeship programme, applicants must sign an apprenticeship contract with their employer and have it registered with the Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Unit.

Admission to university-level studies:

Alternatives to credentials: Secondary School Diploma. Alternatives: Universities set their own admission policies and requirements. Some provision is made for special admission procedures such as mature students (e.g. 22 years of age or older) or probationary entrance for students who do not meet established academic entrance criteria. Some university faculties or colleges select only the most qualified applicants. Admission to some professional programmes requires previous university education. Both universities and SIAST adhere to Recognition of Prior Learning practices and plan to expand upon this initiative (e.g. 2 + 2 program offerings internationally).

Numerus clausus: There is a numerus clausus (quota system) established at the institutional level for specific programmes.

Other requirements: 65% average at the University of Regina and a 70% average at the University of Saskatchewan from 5 or 7 specified subject areas dependent on selected study course.

Foreign students admission:

Definition of foreign student: Foreign (International) Students are students who are neither Canadian citizens nor permanent residents of Canada, and are enrolled in a recognized academic, professional or vocational training course at a university, college or other educational institution in Canada.

Quotas: There are quotas at the institutional level.

Admission requirements: For undergraduate applicants:

In general, applicants must be qualified to enter university in their home country.

Admission is typically based on up to 6 secondary courses, will vary by credential and must include the specific courses required by their chosen faculty.

For Graduate applicants:

Applicants are required a four-year honours degree, or equivalent, from a recognized college or university in an academic discipline relevant to the proposed field of study.

All applicants must provide evidence of English language proficiency.

A lack of proficiency in English or French will be taken into account by the Canadian Immigration Office in the evaluation of the application.

Entry regulations: Before you come to study in Canada, you will need: a Study Permit unless your program of study is six months or less and can be completed within six months.

To obtain a Study Permit you must meet the following requirements: have received an original acceptance letter from the University of Saskatchewan; be able to provide proof of enough money to pay for tuition and living costs for you and any accompanying family members; be able to prove that you will return to your home country after your studies at the University of Saskatchewan; pass a medical examination if required; and meet other visitor requirements, including a visa if required.

A small number of students do not require a Study Permit by virtue of their status in Canada (e.g. diplomats and their children).

Health requirements: International students attending the Universities in Saskatchewan, are entitled to Provincial Health Coverage for no additional cost.

Medical examinations are not required by institutions but are required by Citizenship and Immigration Canada for students from many countries.

Language requirements: All applicants must demonstrate an appropriate level of proficiency in the English language:

TOEFL: Internet based – overall 80; computer based – 213; paper based – 550

IELTS: band score of 6.0 (University of Regina) or 6.5 (University of Saskatchewan)

CanTest: Listening – 4.5; reading – 4.5; Writing – 4.0

MELAB – 85

CAEL – 60

CELT - 60

RECOGNITION OF STUDIES

Quality assurance system:

There are formalized credit transfer agreements between the universities and their federated or affiliated colleges and between SIAST and the two universities in selected programme areas such as Nursing, Engineering and Commerce, as well as universities in other provinces.

Special provisions for recognition:

Recognition for non-university level studies: In general, none. Any restrictions on admission to SIAST and the regional colleges are determined by the institutions themselves, given available teaching and other resources.

Recognition for university level studies: In general, none. Universities establish their own criteria for recognition of studies in their institutions. Where quotas apply, space may be reserved for international students.

For access to advanced studies and research: Applications from international students are not accepted for undergraduate study in Education, Medicine, Physical Therapy or Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan. No restrictions are imposed by the University of Regina.

For exercising a profession: In general, none. For each profession, both Canadian and non-Canadians who studied abroad have to meet specified educational and experience requirements, and usually pass registration examinations. Non-Canadians whose first language is not English, may sometimes also need to pass language testing. Access to most professions is governed by provincial and/or federal statutes and is restricted to Canadian citizens or immigrants accepted as permanent residents. Applicants must also meet examination and/or practical training requirements set by the relevant professional body or provincial or federal licensing board.

PROVINCIAL BODIES

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Role of national body: To administer the provincial role in relation to postsecondary education i.e., funding, development of provincial policy, liaison with postsecondary institutions.

Data for academic year: 2008-2009

Source: IAU from The Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials (CICIC), a unit of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC), on behalf of the Province of Saskatchewan, 2008