

'University 101' program faced with lowered enrolment rates

KARI CHAN
News Writer

Recent decreases in enrolment for the Transition Year Program (TYP), developed to help students make the transition between high school and university, has organizers worried about why students are passing up its services, and has them calling for more funding to the program.

Designed to help aboriginal students gain admission to the University of Alberta, TYP offers extra support to those students who did not meet the competitive grade averages set by the University.

"TYP is a program for first-year aboriginal students who may not have all the course work [needed] to gain access into their faculty," explained Suzanne Butler, acting coordinator for TYP. "They take all first-year courses, very similar to what you would be taking in your faculty. The only exception is that they take a slightly reduced course load and they take what is called University 101, which is a study skills course."

"[But] it's not just upgrading," stressed Elliott Young, a veteran of the program. "A lot of people think it's upgrading, but we actually take university courses ... it's just a different way of admission into University."

Without funding from either the Students' Union or the government, Butler is concerned about whether students are getting the word about TYP, as the program doesn't do much promotion.

"It's hard to tell," Butler said. "We haven't done much recruitment ... it [has] been mostly word of mouth. We just had a website set up this year, and that's how we recruit



JESSE WHITEHEAD

A HELPING HAND TYP gives Aboriginal students a second crack at admission. But the program has seen costs rise and enrolment fall, says Suzanne Butler.

students. So it's hard to say [that] if we were actively recruiting how it would affect enrolment."

With the cost of the program rising to \$1000 for each potential student, Butler worries that the increasing financial pressure will discourage potential applicants from joining TYP.

"There is no hard funding for the program ... so students have to pay an additional \$1000 per year to be part of TYP, which is an extra burden on them," Butler explained.

But despite the worry over funding, Butler hopes that decreasing enrolment is not all bad news for TYP, and might show a decreased need for the helping hand.

"I'm hoping there is less of a need

for this program because students are able to get directly into their faculties. However there is still very low representation of aboriginal students on the U of A campus, so I think there is still a need for this program," she said.

"I think it really helped with the transition into University," Young agreed. "If I went straight into a Bachelor of Native Studies ... I wouldn't have known who to come to, what kind of services are available to me."

"A lot of people don't know what TYP is," Young said. "One of the challenges is being recognized as an actual program at the U of A ... not just by the faculty, but also by the students."

U of A buildings no risk: Warren

ASBESTOS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"If asbestos is not disturbed, it is not a threat," said Warren, explaining that any negative effects on health come from inhaling the fibers.

Warren, along with his colleagues in the planning department, ensured that maintenance workers are well-informed of safe-handling techniques when working with asbestos, and say they are aware of which buildings contain asbestos.

"We do projects as funding becomes available, and renovations come up," Warren said.

"The University not only follows government legislation in regards to asbestos, but we go over and above legislation requirements. Instead of encapsulation, the U of A removes asbestos," he added.

Warren went on to explain that encapsulation is a process for protecting against asbestos by

covering a threatening area with a protective coating, such as layering carpet over floor tiles that contain chrysolite fibers.

Warren notes that his department maintains a high level of communication with staff in infected buildings, and health is always a priority when evaluating the risks of asbestos in the University.

"Students and staff are safe," he stressed.

LSAT MCAT GMAT GRE Preparation Seminars

- Complete 30-Hour Seminars
- Proven Test-Taking Strategies
- Personalized Professional Instruction
- Comprehensive Study Materials
- Simulated Practice Exams
- Free Repeat Policy
- Personal Tutoring Available
- Thousands of Satisfied Students

Oxford Seminars
780-428-8700 / 1-800-779-1779
www.oxfordseminars.com

MARKET RESEARCH INTERVIEWER



- Conduct interviews over the telephone from our centrally located call centre, accurately enter data into a computer system.
- Absolutely no sales involved.
- Position requires excellent telephone manner and typing skills.
- Flexible scheduling with shift choices.
- Company benefits plan.
- \$10.50 / hour to start, with performance based reviews.

Please mail, fax or email your resume to:
2nd Floor, 10304 - 108 Street, Edmonton, AB T5J 1L9
Fax: 780-485-5085
Email: HR@TrendResearch.ca
Phone: 780-485-6558

TREND HIRES ON AN ONGOING BASIS

THE BANK

ultra lounge

WWW.THEBANKULTRALOUNGE.COM
10765 JASPER AVE.

**HOLLYWOOD
WEDNESDAYS**

**LADIES
NIGHT!**

**\$1
DRINKS**



GENTLEMEN

**\$3
DRINKS**

FLU·id
Lounge



10888 Jasper Ave.

**THURSDAYS
LADIES NIGHT!**

**\$1
DRINKS!**
(ladies only. B4 midnight)

**GUYS
\$3 DRINKS!
ALL NIGHT!**