

University Preparatory Program (UPP)

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The University Preparatory Program (UPP) is a unit within the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Its main objective is to address the specific English language needs of students who have completed high school with strong academic records but are unprepared to function in all-English curricula at the university level. The program also aims to develop the science and mathematics content competencies and computer skills of its students, as well as develop the requisite academic literacy, study skills, and information library skills needed for success in university studies.

UPP is a 25-hour per week program. Its curriculum follows an integrated approach to the teaching of language skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing,) and a student-centered approach to the teaching of science and mathematics. Furthermore, the curriculum incorporates study skills, pronunciation training, and conversational English, depending on individual needs. The development of computer literacy, preparation for the critical reading part of the SAT reasoning test, and cultural orientation, are also emphasized.

Applicants must have completed at least twelve years of schooling, or the equivalent, before beginning the program, and must submit a UPP application with all supporting material. Completed applications are reviewed, and students are notified of their acceptance or non-acceptance to UPP in due course.

Accepted applicants to UPP are assigned to a learning level based on their performance on a special English language test. This test measures the English language proficiency of learners and is used to place students into three proficiency levels. Other diagnostic tests specifically prepared for the program are used to determine the mastery level of various language skills and elements (listening, speaking, reading, writing, grammar, and vocabulary). In addition, applicants receive developmentally-appropriate instruction based on their performance on science, math, and computer skills tests.

Promotion to a higher level is not automatic; learners must demonstrate that they have successfully met the instructional objectives set for the current level. The placement test might be administered again to serve as an indicator of the progress made by the learners over the period of one semester. Exit out of the course is on the basis of attaining the scores on the TOEFL and SAT tests needed for admission to regular AUB programs. Furthermore, all UPP applicants to AUB must present a letter of good performance from the Program Director. They should also maintain a good attendance record. Students who miss more than one-fifth of the sessions of any section in the first ten weeks of the semester (five weeks in the case of the summer term) will be dropped from the program.

It is important to stress that students need to complete the program, even if they attain the needed TOEFL and SAT scores before the semester is finished. Failing to complete the program jeopardizes students' chances of admission to AUB.

UPP Courses

UPEN 001

0 credits

This course is designed for beginning UPP students who have little or no knowledge of English. It provides learners with basic listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills, enabling them to understand and take part in English conversations, in addition to reading simple stories and responding to them in writing.

UPEN 002

0 credits

This course is designed for low-intermediate UPP students who possess limited language skills but can initiate conversations and read and/or write a paragraph or several paragraphs. Word-building and study skills, in addition to more sophisticated reading and writing skills, are introduced to enable these college-bound students to cope with the tasks required of them in the future. There is also emphasis on orientation to the American model of education, and to living in a diverse ethnic and cultural environment.

UPEN 003

0 credits

This course is designed for high intermediate UPP students who can communicate well both in conversation and in writing. It serves as a transition from intensive English courses to regular academic study. Students read various texts, give oral presentations, receive cultural orientation, and practice their academic writing and basic research skills.

UPEN 004

SAT Writing and Critical Reading

0 credits

This course prepares students for the writing and critical reading sections of the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT Reasoning) required of all undergraduate students joining AUB. Emphasis is placed on critical reading skills, college writing skills, vocabulary building, and standardized test-taking strategies.

UPMA 001A

SAT Math

0 credits

This course prepares students for the math section of the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT Reasoning) required of all undergraduate students joining AUB. Emphasis is placed on mathematical terminology, arithmetic skills and concepts, word problems, geometric concepts and reasoning, in addition to standardized test-taking strategies.

UPSC 001A

Science

0 credits

This course is a science literacy course that introduces students to major concepts in the physical and life sciences and their applications in every day life. It emphasizes in-depth conceptual understanding of science concepts by using a variety of teaching approaches. Additionally, the course introduces students to scientific terminology in English to prepare students to take science courses at the university level.

UPIT 001A

Information Technology

0 credits

This course is a computer literacy course that introduces students to computers and their importance in society. It provides essential acquaintance for students with no previous background in computers. The course covers the basic terminology in terms of hardware, software, communication, and the Internet. In addition, a great part of the course is dedicated to the practical use of basic application software (Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint).