

Lethbridge College—Montana State University-Bozeman Transfer Articulation Agreement

Background on Transfer Articulation Agreement

In 2007, Bill Smienk, Program Head of Engineering Design and Drafting Technology (EDDT) at Lethbridge College visited the MSU School of Architecture to inquire about the possibility of a transfer agreement between our two schools. The EDDT program is a 2-year program of study that leads to a Diploma in Engineering Design and Drafting Technology. The courses in the EDDT program focus on structures, building materials, building construction and engineering drafting as well as other areas related to engineering design and drafting. A number of these students are interested in pursuing a 4-year degree that will prepare them to enter a professional program in Architecture. Because the EDDT students are quite strong in the technical areas, a transfer agreement between the two programs is seen as a good fit as their students are able to enroll in the Environmental Design undergraduate program within the MSU School of Architecture and take 3 years of architectural design studios, architectural history, architectural graphics as well as complete the MSU University Core 2.0 requirements. Developing a transfer articulation agreement between Lethbridge College and Montana State University allowed for a streamlined process to assess and transfer credits to MSU while providing Lethbridge College students with a clear program of study to complete the Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Design degree program at MSU. With the expansion of enrollment capacity in the School of Architecture in 2006, the Lethbridge College students can be accommodated without impacting admission of resident Montana students.

Over the course of the next few years, the resulting transfer articulation agreement was developed and reviewed by individual faculty in each program as well as by the School of Architecture Curriculum Committee to determine the appropriate course equivalencies. The MSU School of Architecture Interim Director and the Undergraduate Program Coordinator for the School of Architecture visited Lethbridge College in 2011 to meet with faculty, staff and administrators as part of the assessment and development of this agreement. This agreement was reviewed at all administrative levels at both institutions.

Lethbridge College

Lethbridge College was established in 1957 and is a board-governed public college operating under the authority of the Post-secondary Learning Act of Alberta. Lethbridge College offers more than 50 programs—primarily one- to two-year programs—that lead to further education or to career employment through its apprenticeship, certificate, diploma, applied baccalaureate degree, and baccalaureate degree programs. Its student population is approximately 4000 FTE students. Lethbridge College has received the National Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) certification providing for increased opportunities for research funding. They recently developed a Wind Turbine Technician program which has received national and provincial recognition and funding in Canada. Programs across the campus have received a number of awards including the 2010 Award of Recognition for Innovation for the Living Home project, a 2009 Outstanding Program in International Education award, and the Innovation of the Year 2009-10 award from the League of Innovation for their Educational Enhancement Team. The Engineering Design and Drafting Technology program has received

national certification from the Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists following an in-depth investigation on campus. This certification allows their students to transfer to other institutions throughout Canada and internationally.