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Introduction

Increasing access to universities for underrepresented students requires that universities provide additional services and supports through access programs and other initiatives to remove barriers that prevent some students from entering university, participating, and being successful. The University of Toronto is committed to ensuring that students from communities that are underrepresented in universities see and experience U of T as a place where they can thrive.

The University of Toronto has a long tradition of engagement with access initiatives, primarily through programming offered at the local (e.g., faculty, campus, college) levels.

Currently, there are 130+ access and outreach programs and initiatives at the University that respond to the diverse needs of current and prospective students.

Access Strategy & Partnerships Office

The Access Strategy & Partnerships Office (ASPO), established April 2022, has a tri-campus mandate committed to supporting partners both internal and external to the University who support existing and prospective students to access and thrive in post-secondary education.

The Access Programs University Fund (APUF) launched in 2019, has supported various access initiatives across the University of Toronto. The purpose of this fund is to provide financial resources to help local units develop new and/or enhance existing programs dedicated to providing opportunities and support for students who, without intervention, may not access or succeed in post-secondary education.



Programs

This poster offers an overview of the following access and outreach programs offered at the University of Toronto for Black, Indigenous, racialized youth, and mature learners.

Indigenous Tuition Initiative

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

INSTITUTION-WIDE INITIATIVE
Launched in 2023, the initiatives apply to current and future Indigenous students enrolled in most undergraduate, graduate and professional credit-based programs across the three campuses – part of a suite of programs available to Indigenous students as part of U of T's commitment to increasing access and support services.

The University of Toronto will offer **FREE TUITION** for students from nine First Nations as part of its efforts to make the university more accessible and inclusive for Indigenous students – and strengthen relationships with Indigenous communities.

Indigenous or Native American students from the continental United States will be charged the domestic Ontario tuition rate in recognition of the Jay Treaty of 1794, which acknowledges the colonial nature of the border between the U.S. and Canada.

This initiative includes three programs:

- The U of T Indigenous Tuition Grant covers the cost of tuition in eligible undergraduate and graduate programs for students from the nine neighbouring First Nations communities.
- Indigenous students from the rest of Canada are eligible for domestic Ontario tuition fee.
- Native American/Alaska Native students from the continental U.S.A. are eligible for domestic Ontario tuition fee.

APUF Funded

Building Black Success through Design

ABOUT BBSD

- A FREE 32-week mentoring access program for Black high school students interested in architecture, art, and design.
- enhances diversity through engaging Black university students, alumni, and professionals.
- opens pathways to post-secondary education in the architecture and design fields, including the Daniels Faculty undergraduate programs in architectural studies and urban studies.

THE IMPACT OF BBSD

- Connects Black students to design professionals and practice with mentorship and guidance.
- Provides a platform for Black students to showcase their design proposals.

2024 CURRICULUM

- 1. Observe + Document**
Week 1 - WEEK 2
- 2. Implement + Design**
Week 3 - WEEK 4
- 3. Review + Reflect**
Week 5 - WEEK 7

APUF Funded

LAW IN ACTION WITHIN SCHOOLS (LAWS)

Faculty of Law

- LAWS is Canada's leading law school youth outreach and postsecondary access program in the model of a 3-year high school program (Grade 10-12) that supports students' post-graduation through alumni programming.
- Founded by the University of Toronto Faculty of Law in 2005, LAWS expanded to Osgoode Hall Law School in 2011. It is an innovative partnership between several law schools and the Toronto District School Board (TDSB).
- LAWS supports historically and systemically under-served youth (racialized minorities, new immigrants, low-income socioeconomic status youth) in gaining access to postsecondary education, work experience, mentors, and academic support.

LAWS Program Purpose:

To support access to postsecondary education for underserved youth (racialized minorities, new immigrants, low-income socioeconomic status youth).

- To provide a positive and engaging exposure to legal issues, the justice system, and the legal profession.
- To use legal education as an academic tool to encourage students to graduate from high school and access post-secondary education.
- To increase the diversity of the legal profession in order to better reflect, serve, shape, and strengthen Canadian society.

LAWS Program Elements

- In-Class Workshops
- Field Trips
- Mock Trial Club
- 1-on-1 Tutoring
- LAW Firm Mentoring
- LAWS Weekly After-school Program
- Legal Sector Summer Job Placements
- Scholarships
- Alumni Postsecondary Support

APUF Funded

BFEP

BLACK FUTURE EDUCATORS' PATHWAY

Ontario Institute for Studies in Education
Master of Teaching Program

- Two-year pre-service education program (leads to teacher certification for K-12 schools in Ontario)
- BFEP initiative began September 2021
- Graduate level
- Open to Black-identifying applicants

Aims

- Build an intentional pathway to attract and support future Black educators
- Respond to persistent lack in teacher diversity that fails to reflect student demographics in K-12 schools
- Bring the reproduction of inequitable outcomes as students miss the benefits of representative role models who adopt culturally responsive and critically conscious pedagogy
- Enlive commitments to policy & research (eg. *Masters of Teaching Race and Inclusion* Committee report, Kempf et al., 2020; In/VI Anti-Black Racism Task Force Report, 2021; and the Scarborough Charter, 2021)

Pathway Elements

- Academic** - Includes BFEP sections of courses across each term of the program for unidirectional Black inquiry e.g. Black Educator Identity & Practice
- Intentional Field Placements** - BFEP students matched with K-12 education skilled in anti-racism teaching & advocacy
- Mentoring & In-Program Supports** - additional workshops, financial support, social events e.g. Master of Teaching Black Educators' Association, National Black Graduate Network, OISE's Centre of Black Education Studies
- Networking & Alumni Networks** - e.g. sustained hiring supports, linkages to Ontario Alliance of Black School Educators
- BFEP Outreach & Admissions Process** - Outreach coordinators focus on undergrad & Black-serving community organizations. Black applicants reviewed by BFEP Admissions Committee e.g. 1st year rise led to 25-30% increase in numbers of Black applicants

APUF Funded

Dalla Lana School of Public Health

DLSPH Outreach and Access Program

Inspiring diverse future generations of health and health systems leaders

Reasoning

- Public health and health systems play a critical role in the health of our nation and systems that can enable or inhibit professionals to improve these systems
- The diversity of our city is currently not reflected in public health and health system leadership
- Strong leadership is essential to implement health care systems that meet the needs of a diverse population

Goals

- Reduce awareness of non-clinical, less known, but highly influential careers in healthcare
- Create a diverse pool of students and community leaders and program them for influential roles within Canada's broader health system

3 Program Components

During the school year, students build relationships with mentors through weekly contact. Students receive the role-playing leadership skills and develop more nuanced understanding of public health concepts. Summer activities use the skills and experiences to enrich learning opportunities.

After completing the Semester Program, students are invited to participate in a week-long summer immersion and engagement in professional health careers, and the DLSPH during their undergraduate years. Students are supported by DLSPH Faculty in their research, writing, workshops, activities.

The DLSPH Outreach and Access Program addresses the need for diverse leadership in health and health systems.

APUF Funded

TRANSITIONAL YEAR PROGRAMME (TYP)

About:

- TYP is one of the first and largest access-to-university programs in Canada. The length of the program is generally 8 months (September–April), though this period can be extended via accessibility accommodation.
- TYP is a gateway to university for individuals without formal qualifications for U of T's admission requirements because they have faced barriers or interruptions in their academic journey. Most TYP students are mature first-generation post-secondary students including Indigenous, Black/African-Canadian, LGBTQIA+, persons with disabilities, sole-support parents, etc.

Purpose:

- Build foundational academic skills, explore interests, reclaim their student identity and prepare to transition into a university degree program at the University of Toronto.

A Proud Legacy:

- TYP began at Innis College, in September 1970 with approximately 25 students.
- With roots in Toronto's Black community came an emergence of summer programmes in 1969 and 1970, where to this day over 600 students have completed undergraduate degrees.
- In pursuit of higher education, over 100 students have obtained post-graduate degrees since establishment.
- TYP has been an influential leader in equity and anti-racism discourse and praxis at U of T.

Enabling Access

- TYP administrators work closely with academic departments and student services to facilitate access to resources for mature students.

Alumni Engagement

- Intentional connection of alumni to further support their journeys, through professional/personal development and events, all while fostering a community that includes peer-to-peer academic advising.

Outreach & Collaboration

- TYP supports numerous organizations and grassroots collectives to offer mutually beneficial programming and sustain equity and access.
- Offerings include in-kind space; mentorship; community visits; events; along with co-curricular and volunteer opportunities to enrich student life.

Recommendations for advancing access priorities

- 1. Coordination and collaboration:** increase opportunities for coordination of access pathways and support collaborative learning between campuses; divisions; faculties and departments.
- 2. Research and data for insights:** leverage quantitative and qualitative program data and participant outcomes in the short, medium and long-term. Support capacity for programs to collect and share such data.
- 3. Sustainability:** support and sustain access program capacity as essential interventions for ensuring non-traditional students are exposed to post-secondary pathways and opportunities.