

## **Bridge Basics**

### **Why am I in the Bridge Program?**

The Office of Admissions identified that you met important admission criteria for AUM. You were selected to participate in this program that serves conditionally admitted students.

### **What qualifications allow me to be in the Bridge Program?**

Use this chart to find requirements for AUM admission:

<b>Full Admission</b>	<b>Conditional Admission</b>
3.0 minimum unweighted high school GPA without test scores	2.3-2.99 unweighted high school GPA, without test scores
<b>OR</b>	<b>OR</b>
2.3 minimum unweighted high school GPA with 18 ACT or 940 SAT scores	2.00-2.29 unweight high school GPA, with minimum 18 ACT or 940 SAT scores
<b>OR</b>	<b>OR</b>
Graduated high school more than three years ago with minimum 2.3 unweighted high school GPA	Graduated high school more than three years ago with 2.0-2.29 unweighted high school GPA
<b>OR</b>	<b>OR</b>
GED score of 500	GED score between 450-499

### **What are the benefits of the Bridge Program?**

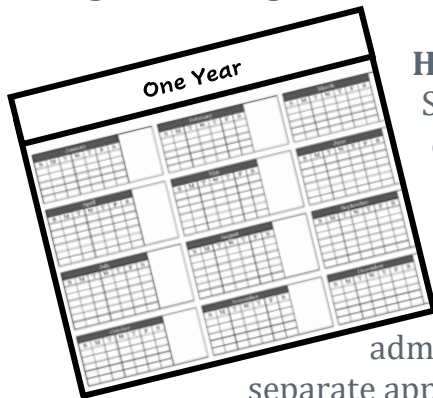
During the Bridge semester, you will be enrolled in freshmen level courses and corequisites designed specifically for “bridging the gap” to a continued and successful college career.

The Bridge Program will provide you with extra academic support for up to one year, while you work to gain full admission to AUM.

The Bridge advisor will collaborate with you, to help you navigate your journey towards being a successful college student.

### How do I complete the Bridge Program?

Students complete the Bridge Program by earning a minimum grade of C in required college level English, Math and UNIV 1000 (college success) courses. These courses count toward a student's graduation requirements. Upon earning these minimum grades, Bridge students will be fully admitted AUM students.



### How long will I be in the Bridge Program?

Students have one year to complete the Bridge Program by earning a minimum grade of C in English, Math and UNIV 1000 (required college success course).

### How do I apply to the Bridge Program?

[Apply for Admission at AUM](#) – If you apply for regular admission, you are considered for our Bridge Program. (No separate application is required.)

### Is there a way to change my admission status?

A student's admission status may be reviewed if additional credentials are submitted. If you have an ACT composite score of 18 (with a minimum unweighted 2.3 high school GPA) that you have not submitted, you may submit that to [admissions@aum.edu](mailto:admissions@aum.edu) and ask for your status to be reevaluated. If you raise your high school unweighted GPA to 3.0, your status may be reevaluated, based on submission of your official high school transcript.

### What happens if I don't complete the Bridge requirements?

Students who do not complete the Bridge Program should enroll in an accredited institution and earn 24 credit hours, to re-apply to AUM. The courses completed elsewhere must include one college-level English course and one college-level math course, if those credits were not earned at AUM.

### Where is the Bridge Program office?

The Bridge Program manager's office is part of the WASC, the Warhawk Academic Success Center, on the second floor of the Library.

### Steps for the AUM Bridge student

#### How do I confirm my interest in AUM?

Once you've been accepted into the Bridge Program, you will receive a Bridge Contract with your acceptance letter. Please return a signed copy of your contract to the Bridge Program Manager, as indicated on the contract.





### **What classes will I take in my first semester?**

Depending on your declared major, you will start with UNIV and either Math or English. The Bridge advisor will help you select an appropriate third course to reach full-time student status. This additional course will be selected from core curriculum courses.

Students who start classes in the summer will take UNIV and English.

Bridge students may choose part-time or full-time enrollment.

### **How do I register for classes?**

AUM students register for classes during their Orientation. [Please sign up for your Orientation session here.](#)

### **What are my next steps?**

[Here is a checklist](#) to help you accomplish the tasks to be ready when classes begin.

### **Do Bridge classes count toward graduation?**

Yes! Bridge students will take classes required for graduation. All students are required to take English Composition, college level math and UNIV 1000, University Success. Some corequisites may be required, based on test scores or high school GPA, and the corequisite credits may not count toward graduation.

### **What is a corequisite?**

A corequisite is a course that is required to be taken in the same semester as another course. Corequisites that first year students may take include:

- ENGL C1011: English Composition I Lab (for students with 2.79 or lower high school GPA)
- MATH 0020, MATH 0050, STAT 0070: Corequisites for college level math courses (placement determined by ACT, SAT or [Math Placement Test](#) scores)
- UNIV 1001: University Success Lab (1-credit, required for Bridge students)
- Science Lab for core curriculum science class

### **Can I take additional courses in my first semester?**

New Bridge students start with a 12-13 hour semester. This load aligns with typical financial aid allotments and allows new college students the time necessary to better balance the new level of academic and personal responsibilities.

### **What will I take in my second term?**

You will take the last “Bridge” course, along with other major appropriate courses, selected in consultation with your Bridge advisor.



## **Opportunities for Bridge Students**

### **What is different about being in the Bridge Program?**

- Bridge students are considered AUM students and are eligible for the same services and resources as fully admitted students
- Bridge students are eligible to live on campus
- Bridge students are eligible for financial aid, as determined by the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid, found at [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov))
  - Bridge students are not eligible for AUM scholarships
- Bridge students take a 1-hour corequisite college success course, designed to pinpoint strategies and behaviors that help students succeed
- Bridge students must complete Bridge Program requirements in one year, in order to be eligible for future terms as fully admitted students.

### **Can Bridge students live on campus?**

Yes. Please find more information about Housing on your MyAUM portal and the [Housing & Residence Life website](#).

### **Am I eligible for Financial Aid?**

Your eligibility for financial is determined when you complete an application for financial aid through the traditional FAFSA processes. The FAFSA application decides aid for the academic year, including fall, spring and summer terms.

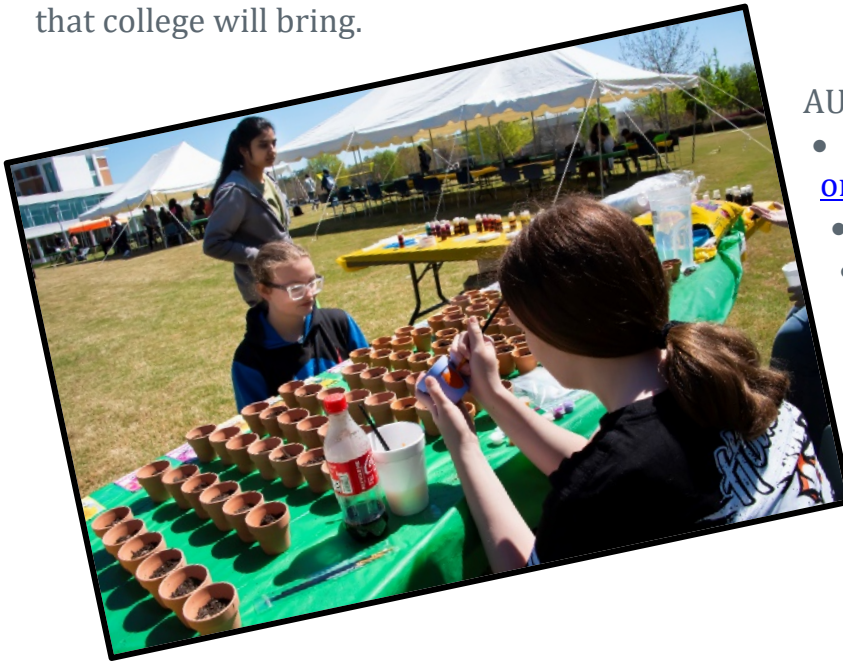
If you are starting the Bridge program in the summer term, you will need to complete two FAFSAs, one for the current academic year, to request aid for the summer, and a second one for the upcoming academic year, for fall and spring aid.



- More information regarding the FAFSA may be found at the FAFSA website (Free Application for Federal Student Aid, found at [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov))
- or from the [AUM Financial Aid Office website](#) or at (334) 244-3571.

### **Can I participate in university activities?**

Yes! Research shows that social connections are an important component to being a successful college student. We recommend you try one organization in your first or second semester, while you are learning to balance the new level of expectations that college will bring.



AUM has nearly

- 100 [clubs and organizations](#),
- [competitive athletics](#)
- [intramural and club sports](#)
- [and many events](#)

## **Benefits of College**

### **Why does college make a difference?**

- Higher salary and lifetime earning potential.
  - College graduates may earn \$30,000 more, each year, than high school graduates; \$1 million over the course of a career.
- More opportunity to qualify for jobs
- Better benefits especially healthcare
- Increased health and well-being for the graduate's family and children
- Higher life and job satisfaction
- Stronger job stability
- Lower rate of unemployment for those with college degree (half the rate of those with high school diploma)
- Positive impact on communication, both written and verbal
- Better decision making and problem solving

- Expanded professional and social network
- More likely to be engaged citizen and less likely to rely on public assistance

### Where can I read more about this?

- [7 Compelling Reasons Why You Should Go to College](#)
- [How do college graduates benefit society at large?](#)
- [Education Pays 2023 Presents Data on the Benefits of Education for Individuals and Society](#)

## Family Support

### How can family or supporters help a Bridge student?

- Support the new college student as they grow and change
  - Some changes are inspiring; others are frustrating; let them know they are still an important member of your family
  - Being homesick is natural but don't ask them if they are
  - Show interest by asking a few questions
- Don't let the student feel guilty about leaving the family
  - Long term, the college degree will benefit the whole family
- Help them complete the financial aid process by encouraging them to follow up with emails from AUM Financial Aid Office promptly and submitting requested information quickly. Some of this information will need to come from you so be ready to respond when your child tells you what they need
  - Also encourage your child to read all AUM emails every day, and respond, as requested in the email
- Share your confidence and trust, that they will do well, even when they experience some failure along the way
- Give them the time and space to meet the demands
  - Understand that college is complex, demanding, and stressful so your loved one may not be as available as before



- Show your pride in them
- Let them know you are thinking of them, with notes or texts, or little care packages

Sites where you can read more about what your loved one will encounter in college.

- [How to Support Your Struggling College Student](#)
- [How Parents Can Support the Adjustment to College](#)
- [Mistakes Parents of College Students Should Avoid](#)

### **Any other questions?**

If you have additional questions about the Bridge Program, or starting at AUM, please contact us!

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