



**SIAS**

SASKATCHEWAN INSTITUTE OF  
APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**Putting knowledge to work.**

## ***NEWS RELEASE***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# **SIAS reviews admission policy**

*Task force will report findings, recommendations later this fall*

**July 25, 2006** – SIAS announced today that it has initiated a review of its admission policy. The review was prompted by waitlists in a handful of high-demand programs, mostly in the medical diagnostics field.

“Measures announced in January have resulted in dramatic reductions in the waitlists for the five programs affected,” says David Walls, associate vice-president, academic and student affairs. “The review that’s being announced today will attempt to balance public concerns and perceptions about the policy with the principles of broad and fair access that our admission policy is intended to promote.”

In particular, the task force assembled to conduct the review will play close attention to concerns with respect to students applying directly from high school, equity students and high academic achievers, says Walls. It will also survey the practices at other western colleges where demand for select programs significantly exceeds capacity, he added. The task force, which will include faculty and student representatives, will report to the president of SIAS this fall. Walls stressed that its report will not result in changes that will affect students accepted into programs starting this fall.

SIAS currently offers seats to applicants on a first-qualified, first-admitted basis. That means that once an applicant to a particular program has met admission requirements, he or she will be offered the next available seat, which usually occurs on the next start date. The process differs from most other institutions in two key respects: First, applicants are accepted on the basis of academic prerequisites for success, whereas most other institutions select applicants with the highest marks. Second, if there are more qualified applicants than seats for a SIAS program, their names are put on a waitlist for subsequent start dates; most other institutions require students to reapply.

In January, SIAS announced that it was suspending the application process to five programs and returning most out-of-province applications to those programs. Waitlisted

applicants have been encouraged to pursue other options, including other SIAST programs. The five programs are Combined Laboratory and X-Ray Technician, Cytotechnology, Dental Hygiene, Medical Laboratory Technology and Medical Radiologic Technology. All five programs have since seen significant reductions in their waitlists. For three programs, the waitlists have dropped to below three years.

SIAST is Saskatchewan's primary public institution for post-secondary technical education and skills training, recognized nationally and internationally for its expertise and innovation. Almost 12,000 students are registered in SIAST programs, which touch every sector of the economy; additionally, the organization draws more than 27,000 individual course registrations. It operates campuses in Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Regina and Saskatoon, and provides a number of courses and programs through distance education.

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