Language and International Health (L&IH)

What is a closed Academic Program?
A closed academic program is an academic program that is not immediately accessible to Bridge students because of enrollment restrictions. Students interested in one of these academic programs must request a change-of-academic-program application from the appropriate department after enrolling at Clemson. The opportunity to change to one of these academic programs upon enrollment at Clemson cannot be guaranteed.

How competitive is it to change to L&IH?
Space can vary from year to year, but there may be zero to 15 spaces available for students who wish to change to L&IH. In addition to Bridge students who wish to change to L&IH in the Fall of their sophomore year, there are also other applicants competing for these limited spaces.

What are the requirements for changing to L&IH?
Students must apply in the first Fall semester of enrollment at Clemson. The first semester (Fall) Clemson GPA will be used to determine eligibility for changing to L&IH.

The following criteria are used to review students’ requests to change to L&IH:
• For students with fewer than 49 credit hours, a minimum 2.5 GPA is required. (3.0 or higher is preferred).
• For students with 50 or more earned credit hours, a 2.75 GPA is required. (3.0 or higher is preferred).
• Students with more than 50 earned credit hours must also have earned credit for the statistics and science general education requirements as listed in the Clemson Undergraduate Announcements. Students must also complete the first year of language (Spanish or French). Students wishing to major in L&IH Chinese should expect to take Summer classes in order to catch up on language requirements.
• Availability of space in the program is determined by each cohort’s expected graduation date.
• Student applicants who do not meet the minimum requirements are not considered.

How does the change-of-academic-program process work for L&IH?
Applications are reviewed once a year. The application opens the first day of class in the Fall and extends to the last day of classes in the Fall term. Students receive a decision prior to the start of the Spring term. Students should contact the Department of Languages well in advance of the deadline regarding the term for which they are seeking approval to begin the program.

Are there any courses Bridge students must take during their Bridge year in order to change to L&IH?
Since most students will be at or near 49 or more credit hours when requesting to change to L&IH, the following must be completed before applying to the program: The statistics and science general education requirements as listed in the Clemson Undergraduate Announcements. Students must also complete the first year of language (Spanish or French). Students wishing to major in L&IH Chinese should expect to take Summer classes in order to catch up on language requirements.

What courses should Bridge students take during their Bridge year?
Biology, statistics, chemistry, languages and other general education requirements should be taken. Students are also encouraged to take psychology and sociology. Please contact the Department of Languages for a specific list. Admission to the program is competitive, so students should have an alternative program in mind. It would be best to take courses that work for both L&IH and an alternative academic program.
What are some alternative academic programs for students who are not successful in changing their academic program to L&IH?

Students who are not approved to change to the L&IH academic program often choose one of the following programs:

- Education
- Food science with an emphasis in nutrition and dietetics
- Language and international business
- Modern languages
- Psychology
- Sociology

Some students choose to major in modern languages with a double major in one of these areas:

- Biological sciences with an emphasis in preredhabilitation sciences
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Women’s leadership
- World cinema

Students should pursue requirements both for L&IH and the alternative program as much as possible. If students run out of classes to take for L&IH, they should take courses to stay on track with the alternative program. It is best that students declare an academic program other than humanities undeclared before completing their Bridge year.

How long will it take for Bridge students approved to change to L&IH to earn their degree from Clemson?

Depending on the cohort they join and language credit earned, students may be able to graduate in three years (after Bridge) or they may be required to spend additional semesters in order to complete all degree requirements.

What can Bridge students do during their Bridge year to make the change-of-academic-program process easier?

Students should attend Advise-a-Thon in September, meet with Clemson advisers during their Bridge year and utilize Clemson’s Center for Career and Professional Development for assistance with selecting an alternative program.

Contact information
CAAH Student Services Center
864-656-4484