ACORN

Information Kit

October 2014 Version 1.1

A Guide to ACORN for Staff & Faculty

NGSIS University of Toronto

About this Package

The purpose of this document is to provide University of Toronto staff and faculty a summary introduction to ACORN, the new Student Web Service (SWS). The initial release of ACORN is planned for early 2015 and will replace the current ROSI-SWS system.

Introducing ACORN & NGSIS (Next Generation Student Information Services)

The University of Toronto is currently engaged in a large multi-year program (NGSIS) to replace its existing student information systems with current technologies that provide a superior user experience for both students and the University's administrative staff.

To date, NGSIS has released a variety of successful applications and services such as *Degree Explorer*, *Co-Curricular Record*, *Course Finder*, *Transfer Explorer*, and *MyRes*.

One of the next major initiatives due for release via the NGSIS program is ACORN. The purpose of ACORN is to provide a more convenient, personalized and guided experience for students using U of T's online services.

The plan is to improve existing ROSI-SWS functionality, introduce new value added features and integrate many of the services a student requires - academically, financially and socially - into one place.

For students, ACORN will replace the existing ROSI-SWS with a more useful and useable online system.

ACORN Features & Benefits

The following features will be available as part of the first ACORN release (1.0), planned for late early 2015.

- 1. A user-friendly, intuitive design enabling easier navigation and improved usability
- 2. UTORid authentication will replace student number and PIN to enable consistent credentials and the convenience of single sign-on access with other common U of T applications such as Blackboard
- **3.** Personalized notifications to alert students of upcoming dates and deadlines and other timely messages pertaining to their student record
- 4. Proactive and personalized warnings displayed for:
 - a. Pre and co-requisites (for students in divisions using Degree Explorer)
 - b. Courses a student is blocked from enrolling in
 - c. Course load limits for terms/sessions (UTM, UTSC, St. George ArtSci)
 - d. Credit/no-credit course assessment (for applicable divisions)
- **5.** Enrolment plans to enable students to proactively plan for and save intended course activities for each session prior to their enrolment open window
- **6.** Access to important student services: e.g. residence applications, the co-curricular record, health and wellness, access and diversity, jobs and career planning
- 7. Data integration between ACORN and existing academic support and student service tools such as Degree Explorer

Future Releases

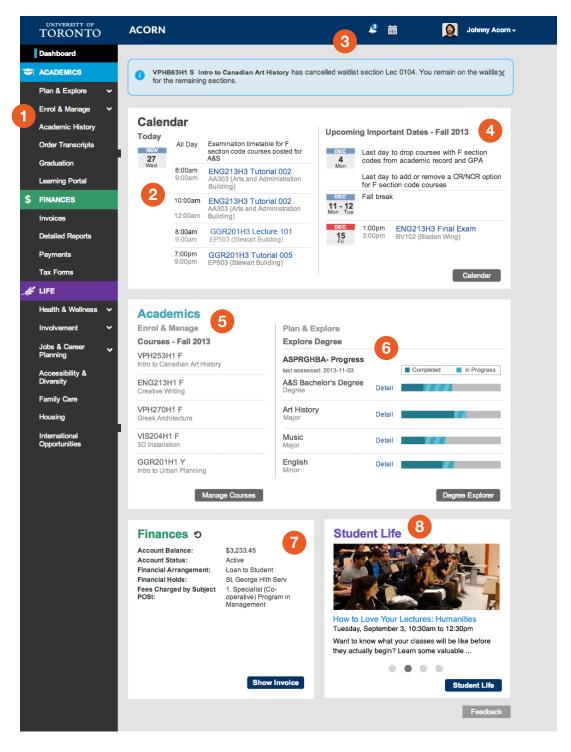
ACORN 1.1 will include an optimized mobile interface and a read-only staff view of student screens.

ACORN 2.0 will provide additional information and improvements related to student finances and awards.

Timelines for these releases are to be determined but are tentatively planned for 2015.

ACORN 1.0 Student Dashboard

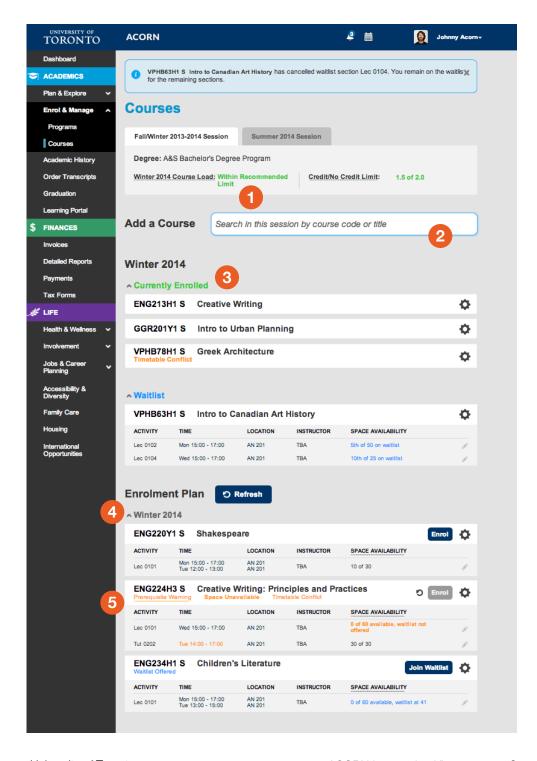
- **1.** Three main navigation categories: Academics, Finances, Life
- Personal academic schedule at a glance
- Notifications Dashboard and/or navigation bar
- Upcoming division-specific dates and deadlines
- 5. Currently enrolled courses
- Degree and program progress for divisions using Degree Explorer
- 7. Financial status snapshot
- Timely and relevant student resources



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ACORN 1.0 Course Enrolment

- Term/session course load limits for UTSC, UTM, St. George Arts & Science
- Search for courses by code or keyword (enhanced functionality)
- 3. Current session course enrolment at a glance
- Save intended course activities prior to enrolment
- 5. Proactive warnings



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How to Get Involved

Your feedback and input are integral to the progress and development of the ACORN product.

Quality Assurance Testing

You can get involved by participating in the Quality Assurance (QA) testing for the upcoming release. The next round of QA testing will take place starting in Fall 2014. Please contact Mark Johnston for more details.

Share Your Ideas

Our team wants to hear from you. Share your ideas for possible features and functions for ACORN with our team by visiting our website at: http://www.ngsis.utoronto.ca

Contact Us

If you would like to request a focused overview of ACORN 1.0 for your department or team, please contact us.

For more progress updates on ACORN and the NGSIS Program, please visit:

http://www.ngsis.utoronto.ca



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