

ISU Academic Advisor Campus Updates  
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International Programs Office

- Websites:
  1. International Programs: <http://www.isu.edu/iso/>
  2. Study abroad: <http://www.isu.edu/iso/studyabroad/index.shtml>
- Not every international student is considered a “foreign” student (most students in the U.S. on an F-1 or J-1 visa are foreign students; others may be permanent residents, refugees, U.S. citizens, visitors, etc.)
  1. F-1 student: a citizen of another country who is seeking study in the U.S. and who is dependent primarily on personal or family funds to cover the cost of their education in the U.S. An F-1 student is degree seeking.
  2. J-1 exchange visitor: a citizen of another country whose funding support is provided primarily by a U.S. university, government agencies or other organizations to study, teach, conduct research or receive training in the U.S. A J-1 student may be degree seeking.
- ISU admits two kinds of international students:
  1. Exchange students who are here for a limited period of time and return to their home university to complete their degree. These students work with their departmental academic advisor for advising.
  2. Degree-seeking students who will complete their degree program at ISU or in the U.S. before leaving the U.S.
- All international students are admitted with a TOEFL score or completion of ELS Level 112 in the ELS Intensive English Language Program, or an IELTS score (<http://www.isu.edu/iso/esl.shtml>). Some undergraduate students are admitted based on an English Compass score that allows them to enter ENGL 101. The TOEFL is an admission tool, not a placement tool. Some students will have SAT scores but rarely have ACT scores. Without SAT or ACT scores, students must take the COMPASS for math & English placement. Contact Tami Carson in Admissions (282.2314) with undergraduate admission-related questions, and Kay Durman in the Graduate School (282.2270) for graduate admission-related questions. See minimum score requirements at <http://www.isu.edu/iso/toefl.shtml>. The SAT score for critical reading must gain student access to ENGL 101 if the TOEFL is waived.
- Credit load for international students:
  1. undergraduate students must register for a minimum of 12 credits/semester or have permission to take less from Shawn Bascom, International Student Advisor.
  2. graduate students must register for 9 credits minimum/semester or have permission from Shawn Bascom.
- It’s important when advising students to help them understand that all 100-level and above classes can help with the credits needed to graduate, even though they may not be required by their major. These classes can be “great immigration insurance and GPA booster” courses. It is suggested to register students in 15 credits/semester as a cushion if later a need to drop credits & maintain full-time status arises. Late-8 week classes also good.
- Recommended classes for new international students:
  - ✓ English 100 is a good class & is recommended before student takes English 090. This class counts toward graduation credit while ENGL 090 does not. Students must also be told that ENGL 100 does not

- automatically get them into ENGL 101 and that they will need to place into English by passing ENGL 090 or with COMPASS scores of 68-94. Students who test into ENGL 090 are much better served in ENGL 100 when it comes to their language and cultural development!
- ✓ English 102 for ESOL students is taught each semester. Paula Hillis is the instructor with the section noted as “reserved for ESOL students” in the online class schedule).
  - ✓ AMST 100
  - ✓ SOC 101
  - ✓ ART 100
  - ✓ If a student places in Math 143 & 144, these should be taken separately rather than taking Math 147
  - ✓ Sample 15-cr schedule for first-time students: Engl 100, Amst 100, Soc 101, Art 100 & math.
  - Important to remember when doing group Mandatory Advising:
    1. Other cultures are not comfortable using first (given) names when addressing others. Introduce yourself as you would like to have them address you but point out that Mr./Ms./Mrs. or by title and last (family) name is a safer choice if the instructor does not make it clear how he or she wishes to be addressed. Remind students it is expected to address people by their first name only if the person has encouraged them to do so. US classroom behavior will be considered very informal by most international students. Encourage them to err on the side of formality.
    2. Use visuals (that includes writing important points on the board or a piece of paper as you advise) and keep terminology simple.
    3. Handouts are helpful.
    4. Don't assume anything. It may be helpful to ask students to repeat what you have reviewed as part of the learning process.
    5. Ask questions which will solicit more than a “yes” or “no” answer. Instead of asking “How do you like it here”? try “What are some differences between your educational system and ours?”
    6. Emphasize timeliness, class attendance, doing homework, frequent testing, and class participation. Asking and answering questions in class is crucial & often tied to the final grade earned. Explain the grading system by relating letter grades to percentages.
    7. Urge students to seek tutoring when getting a C or below, and remind them that no plagiarism or cheating is allowed as serious consequences may occur. Not only can it result in an F grade, but cheating in the U.S. is seen as very amoral and wrong. It can be very difficult for an individual to get a new student visa from the U.S. government if s/he has been academically dismissed from a U.S. campus.
  - If a student needs a referral to counseling, go with them to the Student Health Center, which may be a more acceptable route than suggesting they meet with a counselor in the Counseling Center.
  - International students can work, if permission is obtained from Shawn Bascom.