Classrooms & Community

International Student Orientation
Topics to be Discussed

• Your University and Academic Experience.

• Maintaining your F-1 Status.
CULTURE

SHOCK
What is Culture Shock?

A condition of disorientation affecting someone who is suddenly exposed to an unfamiliar culture or way of life or set of attitudes.
• **PHASE 1:** Honeymoon

• **PHASE 2:** Culture Shock

• **PHASE 3:** Adjustment

What Am I Doing Here?

Where is Happy Hour?
• Adhere to the appropriate Classroom Conduct
  – Instructors are responsible for setting both behavioral & academic standards
  – Respect

• Professor Expectations
  – Syllabus- Road map to the course (Attendance expectations, class objectives, Topic & exam schedule, Assignment & due dates, Required textbooks)
Your University & Academic Experience

Taking responsibility for your own Education

- Attend every class
- Sit near the front
- Focus and take notes
- If you don’t understand – ASK
- Get Involved in class discussions
- Be aware of deadlines
  - Add/Drop
  - Change of Program
  - Assignment due dates
  - Payment of fees
- Remember - you to be a full time student – 12 units (UG’s) and 8 units (G)

- Time Management - set a schedule to include:
  - Plan for study time
  - Balance work with academics
  - Allow time for your family
  - Plan ahead for social time
  - Make time for yourself
- See your instructor outside of class
- Study…..Study…..Study – Use study groups
- Open your mail & Check your email -- Important deadlines could pass without you even knowing it
Campus Standards and Ethical Issues

– **Cheating**......*Intentional using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise.*

– **Plagiarism**......*Intentional or knowingly representing words, research, ideas or work of another as one’s own in any academic exercise.*

  o **Direct Quotations** – Every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks, or by other means of identification, and must be properly cited within the text or footnote.

  o **Paraphrase** – Acknowledgement is required when material from another source is paraphrased or summarized in whole or in part in your own words.
Your University Experience

Taking responsibility for your own Education

Family Education Rights & Privacy Act of 1974

- **Under FERPA:** A student has certain rights concerning their educational records.
  - Allows students access to their educational records
  - Gives students certain rights to consent to disclosures to third parties
- **Under FERPA - The University, at its discretion may release directory information such as**
  - Student’s name, address, phone number, email address
  - Student’s photograph, date & place of birth
  - Student’s major, field of study, grade level, enrollment status, dates of attendance
  - Student’s campus activities such as participation in sports, honors & degrees awarded
- **Students who choose to prevent release of directory information may do so by completing a Request for Confidentiality Hold on Student Records form in the Office of Admissions & Records**
Sexual Assault

- Cal State University, Northridge does not tolerate sexual assault in any form.
  - **Sexual assault** - includes (but is not limited to) rape, forced sodomy, forced oral copulation, rape by a foreign object, sexual battery, and threat of sexual assault.
Sexual Assault Prevention & Education

- **Public Safety Department** offers self-defense classes and sexual assault awareness/prevention training.

- **University Counseling and Testing Department** provides date/acquaintance rape prevention information through the DATE Project.

- Training and prevention classes are also available through consultation with the **Office of Human Resources and the Office of Equity and Diversity**.

- **Valley Trauma Center** provide quality crisis intervention and counseling services, training, and prevention education to promote social change.
Maintaining Your F-1 Status

- Documents should always be valid. Renew prior to expiration.
  - Passport (6 months ahead) (expired visa- no problem)
  - I-20 (3 months ahead)

- Maintain academic progress
  - Undergraduate: 12 units each semester and 2.0 GPA
  - 2nd bachelor’s: 12 units each semester and 2.5 GPA
  - Graduate: 8 units each semester and 3.0 GPA

**All international students are limited to 3 online units to count towards their full course load.**

***Note: If you have only one class left to graduate, this class must be an in-class traditional course to be in compliance with legal guidelines governing your F-1 status.

- Travel Signature on I-20
  - Required for continuing students if traveling outside of the US
  - Valid for one year provided the student continues to maintain legal immigration status.
  - If travel during the semester you are responsible for making arrangements with your professors for any missed assignments/exams.

- Leave of absence: students may take up to a one year leave. Please consult with and advisor.

- Reinstatement: if you fall out of status, please see an advisor to see if you can “correct” your F-1 status.
Maintaining Your F-1 Status

Working in the U.S.
Please visit us at www.csun.edu/international for more detailed information

- EMPLOYMENT
  - On-Campus
  - Off-Campus
    (Economic Hardship)

- PRACTICAL TRAINING
  - CPT
  - OPT

- POST
  - STEM Extension
Completion of Studies

- You complete all coursework and / or
- You complete OPT (Optional Practical Training)
- You have 60 days to choose one of the following:
  a) Transfer to another school
  b) Return home
  c) Change of status

- Check out the IESC website for updates and further immigration information:
  www.csun.edu/international
Final Tips for Success

• Be Patient
• Learn to prioritize
• College is what you make of it...get involved!
• Stay on top of your immigration status...if you don’t know, ask your Foreign Student Advisor!

Success is yours for the taking...it’s now up to you!