# First-Semester Undergraduate F-1 International Student
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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The Enrollment Process

Why is an advisor enrolling me in my first semester courses?

- This process helps to ensure new F-1 international students enroll in at least 12 units towards the student’s major and/or general education (GE).
- International Academic Advisors guarantee that New F-1 international students enroll in at least 12 units as long as they complete the pre-enrollment steps by the set deadlines.
- Students who have not attempted the placement exams or who have transcripts pending may not be eligible for major courses. International academic advisors are aware of these course prerequisites and may be able to assist with speeding up the process of enrollment.
- In the past students have mistakenly put themselves into multiple online classes, courses in which they were not eligible, or courses they did not need. International academic advisors will help avoid these issues by making sure students schedules comply with university policies, course requirements, and visa/I-20 regulations.

How does the pre-enrollment process work?

- An advisor will enroll new undergraduate F-1 international students who fill out the Response Questionnaire. Schedules will ideally meet the student’s preferences as indicated in their Response Questionnaire (if the classes are available) as well as meet their major/GE requirements.
- Student’s who inform us late of their intention to attend CSUN, may be enrolled into courses that meet during times that are not ideal, GE that are not top preference, or risk part-time enrollment. Late is considered July/August for fall or December January for spring.
- Students who wait until after the semester begins to let us know they plan to attend may have to run for permission numbers during the first week to enroll in classes. Running for permission numbers is not an easy process since many classes are closed by the start of the semester.
- Students who decide to withdraw or defer their admission after enrollment should notify International Admissions and the International Academic Advisement Center as soon as possible so that they can be dropped from classes and receive a refund.

Schedule Change Request

What is the process for requesting schedule changes?

- To request a schedule change students can email ugs.intladvisor@csun.edu with their name, ID number, and the specific change they would like to make. Students may request a change to their schedule no later than the Friday of the first week of classes, with limited exceptions.
- Request for schedule changes are not guaranteed. Approvals are based on class availability, student eligibility, and if the class fulfills a graduation requirement.
- Since first semester international students are pre-enrolled and guaranteed 12 units whereas other students are not, you will not be eligible to use the Wait List through portal.
The class must be open for a schedule change request to be considered or a permission number must be provided by the instructor if the semester has already begun.

- In order to assure our students have a strong start and are not missing multiple class sessions, only one schedule change request will be approved after the semester has begun.

**Why is the deadline to change my schedule so early?**

We want our students to have a strong, stable start to their first semester. Adding a class late and missing class sessions causes students to fall behind in lecture and assignments. Additionally, since international students enroll earlier than domestic students do in the first semester, their deadline is earlier. International students still have plenty of time to notify an advisor if they have concerns about a class, therefore we expect our students to adhere to the set processes and procedures, which they agree to upon submission of the Response Questionnaire.

**What if I need an exception after the deadline?**

Students must be approved for an exception before seeking out a new course in week 2-3. Having a permission number or seeing an open class does not guarantee that you will be approved. Exceptions to the policy have been outlined below however you can see the full policy here [http://www.csun.edu/undergraduate-studies/pre-enrollment-schedule-change-process](http://www.csun.edu/undergraduate-studies/pre-enrollment-schedule-change-process). Extenuating circumstances not listed below will be evaluated on an individual basis:

- Your DPR has been updated to reflect test scores/exams that exempt you from a course you are enrolled in.
- Your DPR has been updated to reflect transcripts which show that you are in a course equivalent to one you completed at another college/university.
- Your DPR has been updated to show that you now meet the prerequisites for major coursework. The prerequisite must be an exact equivalent or the student will have to go through the course substitution process.
- A major class that was closed/full at the time of enrollment now has seats available.

**Will I be automatically dropped from a class if I do not attend?**

No, simply not attending class does not mean that you will be dropped. It is the student’s responsibility to notify the advisor if they want to drop a course by the third week of the semester. Students who miss the first two sessions of a class that meets twice a week, or miss the first session of a class that is scheduled only once a week can be asked by the professor to drop or may be given a WU (the equivalent of a fail in your GPA). Students who are forced to drop due to not attending class during the first week are not guaranteed enrollment into another class and may have issues with their VISA for being under enrolled. Students are expected to continue attending their scheduled class even if they have been approved to seek a permission number for an alternative course.

**Advisement**

Am I required to make an advisement appointment my first semester?

It is recommended, but NOT required that students come in for advisement before the start of the semester. We understand that many students are still abroad until at least a week
before school starts and may not be able to come in. Completing the mandatory online workshop will serve as advisement and questions or concerns can be emailed to the advisor.

If I do want to make an advisement appointment before the semester starts, how do I?
Students who would like to make an appointment can do so by calling 818-677-6968 or emailing ugs.intladvisor@csun.edu, with their name, ID number, and availability.

What will be covered during my advisement appointment?

- Our advisors cover issues such as, how to read the Degree Progress Report/Planner, how to lift holds, major advisement, course enrollment, where to find resources, and university policies.
- We DO NOT create embassy study plans, provide official proof of enrollment, issue the I-20, approve health insurance, or process any travel/visa documentations. For questions regarding these issues refer to Immigration Issues on pg 8.

**Holds**

I have a new international advisement or “V” hold, what do I do?
The advisement hold for new international students will stay on for the first semester only. You DO NOT need to get this hold removed. This process is followed so that new international students are required to consult with an academic advisor before any adjustments can be made to their schedule; this guarantees that students maintain proper enrollment status. The V holds will be lifted when it is time for students to register for the 2nd semester.

I have a Foreign or “F” hold, what do I do?
The Foreign or “F” hold is placed by the International & Exchange Student Center (IESC). To clear the F hold, you must submit proof of health insurance to IESC at insurance@csun.edu. Insurance is not included in your tuition. For additional instructions, please visit the IESC website at http://www.csun.edu/international/health-insurance-requirement/. Students must purchase health insurance by August 2nd or within two weeks of enrollment to remain in classes. Students who do not purchase health insurance within the designated period will be at risk of having their courses dropped.

I have a Title IX hold. What is “Not Anymore” and how can I get my hold remove?
To maintain a safe environment, CSUN staff and students are required to complete "Not Anymore" an online, video- based, violence prevention program. Students can complete this course, by clicking the "Not Anymore“ link under incomplete task in their checklist. Once you complete the training your hold should be lifted within 24 hours. An advisor cannot enroll you into classes until you complete the training. For more information, visit Access Title IX Training.

I have a Rubella/ Rubeola hold. Where do I turn in proof of Immunization?
If required, you can submit proof of immunization for the Measles and/or Hepatitis B to the Klotz Student Health Center by emailing immune@csun.edu or calling 818-677-3666 if you
Tuition and Payments

When is my tuition due?

Tuition can be paid as soon the student is enrolled, but is due no later than the Friday of the first week of classes. Students will see an earlier fee due date on their portal, however international students are given extra time to pay during their first semester.

Where can I go for information about tuition cost and parking fees?

For tuition and parking information, please visit http://www.csun.edu/stufin. If you need a print out of your personal tuition fees please call student finances at 818-677-8000 (choose option #2) or email Student_Financial_Services@csun.edu.

If I drop a class, will I receive a refund?

Students are entitled to a refund only if there is a decrease in the number of units they are enrolled. Students will not receive a refund if they are simply swapping a course of equal units. Refunds are also prorated after the start of the semester. More information on refunds can be found here http://www.csun.edu/stufin/ucs-refund-information.

I need help paying my tuition, where can I go for resources?

There are many off-campus resources regarding scholarships and loans that you can review on the financial aid page: http://www.csun.edu/financialaid/international-students or under IESC’s resources: http://www.csun.edu/international/financial-aid-and-scholarship-information.

Some on campus scholarships are available to international students, while others are available to only US residents/citizens. A good place to look is at merit-based scholarships offered by your major department. You can also use resources located through the financial aid webpage or meet with a counselor in the financial aid office (BH 1st floor) about additional resources.

Placement & Exams

How am I placed into my Math class?

The Math Selection Assessment (MSA) is an assessment tool for first semester international students who begin CSUN Spring 2015 or after. This assessment identifies the best fit for placement in Math 196QR, 196S, 102, 103, 131, 140, 105, 106, or 150A. Students who began their education at CSUN Fall 2014 or prior are not eligible for this assessment. Students who do not take the MSA or are not exempt will be placed into the lowest level math. For more information, visit the Math Department.

How am I placed into my English/freshman composition class?

Students are encouraged to take the SAT or ACT to be placed into Freshmen Composition (ENGL/AAS/CHS/CAS/LING/QS 113A, 114A, or 115) for the first semester. Some students
may also be exempt from the freshman composition requirement if they have US high school or transfer college course work, or AP, IB, or GCE A-Level test scores. Some students may be eligible for Directed Self Placement (DSP). An advisor will notify students who they recommend to participate in DSP before the semester begins. The TOFEL does not exempt students from any of the placement exams. Students who do not take a placement exam or are not exempt will be placed into the lowest level freshman composition.

What is the Upper Division Writing Proficiency Exam (UDWPE) and when should I take it?
The UDWPE is an exam that all students must attempt by the semester in which they will have 75 units. For transfer students with 60 or more units, this typically means the first semester. Registration holds will be placed on students who have not attempted the exam in time. Neither the TOFEL nor the placement exam scores can exempt you from the UDWPE. To register and view test dates please visit www.csun.edu/udwpe.

Executive Orders

What is Executive Order (EO) 665?
All students are required to maintain continuous enrollment in their math and/or writing sequence until their GE math and/or freshman composition course is complete. Please consult with an advisor early, if you experience difficulties meeting this requirement.

What is Executive Order (EO) 1100?
All students are required to complete their General Education Basic Skills requirements (Freshman Composition, Critical Thinking, Math, and Oral Communication) with a “C-” or higher. Students should begin attempting their basic skills requirement as soon as possible, after their Math and freshman composition requirement are complete.

Immigration Issues

When will I receive my I-20?
The answer depends if you live inside or outside the U.S. Visit the International Admissions site for helpful answers about the initial I-20.

The third page of my I-20 has no signature. Who needs to sign this?
When you are admitted to CSUN, the International Admissions Advisor signs the first page of the I-20. The third page is left blank and is signed if you travel after admission. You must get a signature and fill out any necessary documents from the International and Exchange Student Center (IESC) before traveling.

How do I know if I’m missing immigration requirements?
Immigration requirements are enforced by the International and Exchange Student Center (IESC). Upon arrival to the United States, please make sure to complete the mandatory immigration requirements at http://www.csun.edu/international/new-students. These requirements are different from the requirements for course enrollment listed in your welcome letter.
My Sponsor/Embassy/Cultural Mission requires that I submit a study plan to them. Where can I request a study plan?

Students should obtain the Study Plan form required from their sponsor (if one was provided) and fill it out to the best of their ability; you can use the Degree Road Maps as a guide to plan your courses through graduation. Then request a letter from Admissions & Records that verifies the study plan. Please fill out the Letter Request form (http://www.csun.edu/sites/default/files/letter_request.pdf) and under “Type of letter requested” write that you need your study plan to be submitted to your sponsor/embassy. Submit the Letter Request form (and Study Plan if applicable) to International Admissions in Bayramian Hall (BH) 160, or the Admissions & Records counter in the BH lobby, or email your forms to intladm@csun.edu. Once submitted, the Letter Request process takes approximately 10 business days to complete.

**Housing and Travel Accommodations**

Do you have information about on-campus and off-campus housing?

CSUN offers on-campus housing; students can choose between suites, apartments, or family housing. For more on-campus information, please visit http://www.csun.edu/housing/future-residents. Students seeking possible off-campus housing arrangements, can visit https://housing.csun.edu/portal/och_index.php. Additionally, students looking for temporary housing can visit http://www.csun.edu/~presofc/hotels.html for a list of nearby hotels.

If I already know I will be living in the CSUN dorms, can I check in early?

The move in date for the dorm is typically the Saturday before classes begin. If you expect to arrive earlier, you must make a request to student housing. You can email housing@csun.edu or visit their webpage for more contact information https://www.csun.edu/housing/apply.

Does CSUN provide shuttle service from the airport to CSUN?

Unfortunately, CSUN does not have an airport pickup service, but the Flyaway Bus Service from LAX to Van Nuys is approximately 15-20 minutes away from CSUN (http://www.lawa.org/flyaway/default.aspx). The Flyaway Bus Service costs $9.00 one-way. Once at the station, you may need to take a bus/taxi/uber/lyft from the Flyaway in Van Nuys to campus.

**Technology Help**

I am having trouble accessing myNorthridge portal. Who can help me?

If you are having problems activating your CSUN portal account or forgot your password, you can do a chat option with CSUN’s Helpdesk at http://www.csun.edu/it/need-help or you can call 818-677-1400 as long as you have your student ID number. Students can also visit http://www.csun.edu/mynorthridge/portal-help-guide for further assistance.
How can I access my CSUN gmail account?
Your CSUN email address can be found by logging into your portal and looking in the Solar Student Center. Your email address will be under the personal information section and you will be able to login by visiting gmail.com and using the same password that you use for your myNorthridge portal.

What is Moodle/Canvas?
Moodle/Canvas is an online tool used by some professors to post assignments or tests. Moodle/Canvas is typically used for online or hybrid classes, however not all instructors will use it. You can login to Moodle/Canvas using the same information you use to login to your myNorthridge portal.

Writing and Tutoring Help

Where can I go for writing help?
The Learning Resource Center (818-677-2033) offers the Collaborative Writing Space and Grammar Lab where a writing consultant can answer short questions. They are located on the 3rd floor of the Oviatt Library. There are also writing labs provided by the African Studies Department (SH 273) and the Chicano Studies Department (JR 142).

Where can I go for tutoring?
CSUN has many free tutoring options for students offered through the Learning Resource Center as well as other departments on campus. To see the full list of resources please visit the section on our webpage labeled “Academic Support and Tutoring Resources”.

Getting Involved

Are there Clubs or organizations I can join?
CSUN offers many academic and social clubs/organizations. To see the list, visit https://www.csun.edu/mic/club-and-organizations-directory. Additionally, the International & Exchange Student Center (IESC) works with the International Student Association to plan events for students. For these exciting opportunities, visit http://www.csun.edu/international/get-involved.

How can I join a sports team?
To try-out for an official CSUN sports team, students can contact the Athletics department at 818-677-3820 or visit http://www.gomatadors.com/staff.aspx. However, the Student Recreation Center (SRC) also offers various intramurals sports including flag football, soccer, ultimate Frisbee, and more. For additional information about joining intramurals visit here http://www.csun.edu/src/intramurals.

How can I find a job on campus?
Most jobs can be found by going to a location on campus and asking if they have open positions. For example, it is always good to visit advisement offices in person. However, below are some additional sites where you can look into other job openings. Remember students should always
consult with IESC regarding rules and limitations to working while on an F-1 visa before accepting a position.

- The Career Center in BH 413 [http://www.csun.edu/career/students](http://www.csun.edu/career/students)
- The Library [http://library.csun.edu/About/Employment](http://library.csun.edu/About/Employment)
- The Learning Resource Center (LRC) located inside the library [http://www.csun.edu/undergraduate-studies/learning-resource-center/job-opportunities](http://www.csun.edu/undergraduate-studies/learning-resource-center/job-opportunities)
- Associated Students [http://www.csun.edu/as/jobs](http://www.csun.edu/as/jobs)
- The USU [http://www.csun.edu/usu/jobs/taleo](http://www.csun.edu/usu/jobs/taleo)
- The Student Recreation Center (SRC) [http://www.csun.edu/src/jobs/student](http://www.csun.edu/src/jobs/student)

**Semester at CSUN F-1 Students**

I am an international F-1 student who is part of the “Semester at CSUN” program. Who can assist me with enrollment and overall assistance?

The Semester at CSUN (SAC) program is different from our F-1 degree-seeking, matriculated international student population. SAC ([http://tsengcollege.csun.edu/programs/IPP/SAC](http://tsengcollege.csun.edu/programs/IPP/SAC)) is offered through the Tseng College’s International Programs and Partnerships (IPP) and students can complete up to two semesters at CSUN. For questions about the program or assistance with the enrollment process, please call them at 818-677-5948 or email sac@csun.edu.