

NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS:

Basic Information



Welcome to ACC! We are happy to receive you as a new international student, and we hope you will enjoy your time with us. This handout explains some basic information you will need to know as an international student at ACC. If you have questions, please contact your International Student Advisor.

F-1 Visa Regulations

As an international student on an F-1 visa, you must comply with the following immigration regulations:

- You must be a full-time student by taking a minimum of 12 credits each Fall and Spring semester.
- Of your total credits each Fall and Spring semester, at least 9 credits must be in the traditional classroom, flex, or hybrid format. Your remaining credits may be online.
- You are not permitted to withdraw from classes if it will bring you below full-time, unless a reduced course load is granted. If you would like a reduced course load, you may request one.
- You are not permitted to work off-campus. If you can find a job on-campus, you may work on-campus up to 20 hours per week while school is in session, and up to 40 hours per week when school is not in session. International students are not eligible for work-study positions.
- During Summer semesters, you are not required to take any classes, but you may take classes if you wish.

Your I-20

- Your I-20 is an important immigration document. You should have your current I-20 accessible at all times.
- Pay attention to the program end date on your I-20. If the program end date on your I-20 has passed, you are no longer maintaining lawful F-1 status.
- It is important that your I-20 is accurate at all times. If there are any changes to your information (for example, a change in address or a change in field of study), let your International Student Advisor know immediately.
- Keep all prior I-20s, even if you receive a new I-20.

International Travel

When traveling outside the US:

- Let your International Student Advisor know your travel plans.
- See your International Student Advisor to get a travel signature on your I-20. A travel signature is valid for 6 months.
- You will need to carry certain documents with you while traveling internationally in order to re-enter the US, including a valid passport, a valid F-1 visa, your I-20, proof of adequate financial resources, your ACC transcript, your current class schedule, and your SEVIS I-901 fee receipt. Ask your International Student Advisor for details.
- If your F-1 visa is expired, or if you changed from a different visa status to F-1 while in the US, you will need to apply for a new F-1 visa while outside the US. Ask your International Student Advisor for details.

Registering for Classes

- You will have an *international student registration hold* on your account. Each semester, your International Student Advisor will temporarily release the *international student registration hold* so you can register for classes on your own via myACC.
- After you register for classes, you will have the *international student registration hold* replaced on your account to prevent you from dropping below 12 credit hours.
- After you register for classes, payment is due. Check the Student Finance tab on myACC to view your bill and the next upcoming payment deadline.
- If you need to adjust your schedule while the *international student registration hold* is on, contact your International Student Advisor.
- For help in choosing classes, contact your Academic Advisor.

International Student Warning System

- To remain in good standing as an international student at ACC, you must successfully complete 12 credit hours each Fall and Spring semester. *Note: if you have been granted a reduced course load for a certain semester, then you must successfully complete your course load that semester to remain in good standing.*
- **Grades of U/D, U/F, F, and W are not considered successful completion.**
- If you do not successfully complete 12 credit hours in a Fall or Spring semester, you will be placed on Warning I in the next Fall or Spring semester.
- While on Warning I, if you successfully complete 12 credit hours, you will be taken off Warning I in the next Fall or Spring semester. If you do not successfully complete 12 credit hours, you will be placed on Warning II in the next Fall or Spring semester.
- While on Warning II, if you successfully complete 12 credit hours, you will be taken off Warning II in the next Fall or Spring semester. If you do not successfully complete 12 credit hours, you will be dismissed from ACC.
- If dismissed from ACC, you may either transfer to a different school or leave the US.

Relationship with Your International Student Advisor

Contact your International Student Advisor with any questions you have regarding classes, your degree, transferring, traveling, or your visa status.

- You can contact your International Student Advisor via email. Please email from your ACC student email account.
- You can set up an appointment with your International Student Advisor via email.
- Your International Student Advisor will often send important information to your ACC student email account. It is important for you to check your ACC student email account regularly. If you have a problem accessing your ACC student email account, you can call the help desk at 1-888-800-9198.