

# CONSIDERATIONS FOR ADVISING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

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## Things to Keep in Mind When Advising International Students

Several things must be kept in mind when advising international students:

- **American Education System:** Unfamiliarity with the American education system (e.g. examinations at the end of each quarter, rather than only once a year as is the case with many countries), objective tests (rather than essays), the grading system, and the comparatively informal nature of the American classroom.
- **Financial Support for Educational Expenses:** Money for tuition and fees may arrive late due to delays in release of funds in a student's home country, or due to other unforeseen circumstances.
- **Federal Immigration Academic Regulations:** U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), a bureau of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, requires that undergraduate international students enroll for a minimum of 12 credits per term, and graduate students a minimum of 9 credits per term (vacation term excluded).

Student visa regulations require notification to the USCIS if an international student reduces his/her course load below full-time status, or withdraws. Any international student considering such a change must see an international student advisor in International Affairs prior to making that change.

## Advising Tips and Recommendations

Given their unique circumstances and requirements the advisor will want to recommend that international students:

- Register for at least 12 credits each term (undergraduates) or 9 credits each term (graduates).
- Register for no more than 16 credit hours the first term.
- Develop a schedule that balances course selection between lecture and non-lecture classes, with more weight on the non-lecture side, if possible.
- May qualify for developmental English classes available in the skill areas of writing, listening, and speaking. Contact International Student and Scholar Services for more information.
- Explore the skill-building classes and tutorial ses-

sions offered by University Teaching & Learning Center (TLC) in 68 PLC, or online at <http://tlc.uoregon.edu>.

- Consult regularly with an international student advisor in the International Student and Scholar Services Office about financial assistance, tax issues, U.S. Immigration Service regulations, foreign government regulations, and adjustment to the UO and American culture.

For more information, visit the International Student and Scholar Services website at <http://international.uoregon.edu/index.php/iss>.

## English Proficiency Requirement and Non-Native Speaker Placement Testing

International students are required to demonstrate university-level proficiency in English. Most entering undergraduate students must take the American English for International Students (AEIS) placement test offered during International Student Orientation (ISO) each term. Graduate students may also be required to take this test, and any relevant courses, if their TOEFL score is below 575 (88 IBT, 7 IELTS).

Testing results will indicate whether or not a student must take part in the Academic English for International Students (AEIS) Program and which courses a student must take. AEIS courses address students' needs in speaking and listening, reading and vocabulary, and writing (at three levels of difficulty).

Students tested into the AEIS Program must enroll in required courses in their first term, and complete all required AEIS courses during their first academic year of enrollment at the UO. Students who place into any AEIS writing course are advised to complete all of the courses before enrolling in WR 121.

## AEIS Information

Academic English for International Students (AEIS) is designed to help new international students develop expertise in English for academic purposes, and is a part of an international student's degree requirement at the UO. Students who test into AEIS classes must complete all of the classes within their first academic year, and should take them at the same time as other university courses. Students who place into AEIS writing courses should be advised to register for these classes before taking WR 121.

## **AEIS Requirement**

All new international students must satisfy the AEIS requirement upon enrolling at the UO. Students who enter the UO Summer 2011 or after, with one of the following will have satisfied the requirement:

1. Students whose native language is English
2. Students with a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited U.S. university
3. Exchange or sponsored students who are not seeking a degree from the UO
4. Undergraduate and graduate students with TOEFL scores of 575 (88 IBT, 7 IELTS) or above

AEIS requirement policy change occurred effective summer term 2011. For students admitted to the UO before summer term 2011, please contact the AEIS advisor for details on their requirements.

- **AEIS Testing**

Students who do not meet the AEIS requirement by one of the above qualifications, must meet the requirement by taking the AEIS placement test and taking any appropriate classes based on the results of the test.

## **AEIS Courses and Descriptions**

- As a result of testing, students may be placed into the following courses:

### **AEIS 101 Introductory Academic Oral Communication (4 credits)**

A course to develop oral communication strategies for classroom-based communication, with an emphasis on receptive skills.

### **AEIS 102 Advanced Academic Oral Communication (4 credits)**

A course to further develop oral communication strategies for classroom-based communication, with an emphasis on productive skills.

### **AEIS 107 Comprehending Written Academic Texts (4 Credits)**

A course to familiarize students with effective strategies for academic reading (in Fall term one section of this course is reserved for Pre-Business majors who are also taking BA 101).

### **AEIS 108 Advanced Reading Academic Discourse (4 Credits)**

A course focusing on interactive reading of academic text, reading strategies for better comprehension, speed

and confidence, and further development of critical, interpretive and evaluative reading.

### **AEIS 110 Written Discourse I (4 credits)**

A course in conventions of expository essay writing with attention to effective organization and appropriate language usage.

### **AEIS 111 Written Discourse II (4 credits)**

An intermediate writing course emphasizing expository writing, critical analysis and response to academic text.

### **AEIS 112 Written Discourse III (4 credits)**

An advanced writing course to develop competence in responding to academic text in various modes: critical analysis, argumentation and reporting research.

- **WR 121 for Non-Native Speakers**

There are special sections of WR 121 designated in the course schedule for non-native English speakers.

- **Inquiries about AEIS Policy or Requirements**

Questions about AEIS testing policy or requirements for international students can be answered by the International Student and Scholar Services Office. at (541) 346-3206 or [aesinfo@uoregon.edu](mailto:aesinfo@uoregon.edu). Information about AEIS course curriculum and content is available from the American English Institute (AEI) at 107 Pacific Hall, by phone at (541) 346-3945, or online at <http://aei.uoregon.edu/aeis.html>.