



Tips for International Student Success

As you continue to adjust to life in the U.S. and at Golden West College, one of the most important ways to succeed is by asking for help and support. Find helpful resources on the [ISP Web site](#).

Need help with English? Contact the [Student Success Center](#) (Library 130) to learn how you can enroll in the Writing Center programs to help with your writing assignments.

Need help in a specific class? Contact the [Tutorial Learning Center](#) (Library 100) for free weekly assistance in most subjects.

Feeling homesick or just need to talk?

Come by the International Student Program. We are open all summer, and you are welcome to schedule time with any of the staff. The ISP is your home away from home. Call (714) 895-8146.

Questions/concerns about your academic plan or course load? Be sure you have completed an SEP (Student Educational Plan) with your counselor. Please keep in mind that there are three ways to access counseling services.

Email: If you have a quick question, you may e-mail your counselor.

sdumont@gwc.cccd.edu (Stephanie Dumont) or khinton@gwc.cccd.edu (Karen Hinton)

Walk-in/Drop-in Appointments: These are brief, 10-minute visits with a counselor to ask a question or two or to get clarification on some minor issue.

Scheduled Appointments: These are 30-minute appointments at which you may discuss your academic progress, goals, and Educational Plan.

So, before you seek counseling assistance, determine how much time you think you'll need. To schedule your counseling appointment or to obtain the Walk-in schedule, call Counseling at (714) 895-8119.

Optional Practical Training questions: Attend one of four workshops sponsored by the ISP this fall. Remember, you are required to attend one of these workshops before you begin processing your application. (Workshop dates will be announced in August)

Wondering about your progress in classes? Good communication with your instructor is very important. For specific questions about your grade or an assignment, you should ask the instructor during his/her office hour or before/after class. It is also helpful to say you are an international student. Your instructor's availability and contact info is on the course outline you received on the first day of class. Don't forget that if you miss too many classes, the instructor may drop you from the course.



Maintain Your Visa Status

Do you remember this information from the Orientation? *I understand that I need to complete 12 units each semester. If I am considering dropping a class that would bring my total semester units below 12, I must FIRST receive permission from Janelle Leighton at the International Student Program BEFORE I am able to drop a class. Permission to drop below 12 units can be authorized only due to a medical emergency, for improper course placement, language difficulty in my first semester, or if I am graduating and I am in my final semester at GWC. Failure to receive permission will result in the loss of my F-1 visa status. Only 3 of my 12 units can be online courses for Spring or Fall (Summer is optional).*

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