



Advising International Students

International students represent about 5% of our current student population at W&J and while they share similar needs with their domestic counterparts, there are some pieces of advising that are different. This document is meant to offer some helpful information and guidance in advising international students.

F-1 Students have special requirements:

Note: Not all of our international students hold an F-1 student visa - but the students who do must adhere to the following regulations.

- **Full-time status:** F-1 visa holders must carry a fulltime course load to maintain their F-1 student status. At W&J a full course load is defined as a minimum of 12 academic credits (3 academic courses). If your F-1 visa advisee plans to be enrolled in less than 3 courses for any reason, including academic difficulty, they must speak to the Director of International Student Initiatives before finalizing their schedule or dropping a course.

In some specific instances, the US government regulations allow F-1 visa holders to drop below the full course of study requirement, but doing so without meeting the requirements would result in immediate termination of a student's F-1 visa status.

- **Working:** Regulations surrounding work and immigration status in the US are strict. F-1 visa holding students can work on campus, including positions in dining services, but they are only eligible to work off campus in very specific instances. The regulations for F-1 visa holding students define "work" quite broadly and can preclude some internship (paid or unpaid) and volunteering opportunities depending on the scope of responsibilities and type of activity that position requires. Sometimes there are opportunities that would not typically be considered employment for domestic students but could fall into the definition of work for international students. Therefore, it is important that students consult with Director of International Student Initiatives as early as possible if they hope to work, complete an internship, or volunteer off campus.
 - It is always safest to check before recommending an opportunity to your international advisee. Working illegally, even unintentionally, is a serious violation of status and can result in immediate and long-term negative consequences.

On Campus Support for ESL Students

English Language Support: The Office of International Student Initiatives offers English language support services to all international students. We are here to help! If you believe that a student is struggling to understand course content due to English language proficiency, please contact the Office of International Student Initiatives.

Academic Support: The Office of International Student Initiatives offers academic support to international students. International students come to W&J from a wide variety of educational systems. If you believe a student is struggling due to a lack of understanding of US higher educational norms and practices, please contact the Director of International Student Initiatives.

Contact Information

The Office of International Programs is located in the Hub

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