

Tips for Advising International Students

1. International students are required by the Department of Homeland Security to maintain a full course load of classes. For undergraduates, this means at least 12 semester hours. The only exceptions are the following:
 - the student is in his/her first semester of courses at WKU and is struggling with the English language or the American classroom
 - the student is in his/her last semester of courses at WKU and needs less than a full course load to graduate

In both instances, the student must have their academic advisor complete a Reduced Course Load form before the beginning of the semester. This form may be obtained by the student at the Office of International Student and Scholar Services.

2. International undergrad students must be enrolled in 9 credits of face-to-face courses every semester. For example, with 12 credit hours, only 3 hours or less may be online. Above 12 hours, the student may have more than (1) online course. Please contact ISSS with any questions.
3. Audited classes do NOT count toward full-time enrollment according to Department of Homeland Security regulations.
4. First semester undergraduates who have graduated from ESLI should be enrolled in ENG 051.
5. Students whose first language is NOT English may complete a Foreign Language Waiver request at the Office of International Student and Scholar Services. This will generate the required letter for the academic advisor to waive the foreign language requirement according to policy below.

(The WKU University Senate approved the following policy on December 13, 2001

The general education foreign language requirement will be waived for international students whose first language is not English, contingent upon successful completion of ENG 100 and 300 and either COMM 145 or 161 (i.e. 9 hours instead of 12 in Category A) and an additional 3 hours of coursework in General Education courses selected from any category. When submitting the degree program, such international students must attach this letter from the Office of International Programs verifying they are a non-native speaker of English.

Students receiving the foreign language waiver will list their additional selected general education course in the degree program line labeled "Foreign Lang".)

Questions:

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