

International Student Advising Guidelines

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT VS. STUDENT WITH INTERNATIONAL BACKGROUND

There are two types of international students enrolled at Pellissippi State:

- 1) **International Students:** Students who are living and studying in the U.S. on an F-1 student visa
- 2) **Students with International Backgrounds:** Students who are living and studying in the U.S. in some other immigration status.
 - a. Examples are J-1, permanent resident, undocumented, or naturalized citizen.

To determine the student's classification, you can look up information in Banner (SPAIDEN, GOAINTL) or ask the student for information. It is not offensive to politely ask questions that help you clarify a student's immigration status; however, if the student is uncomfortable or does not respond, do not pressure them to answer.

ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

International students are required by federal law to maintain full-time status (at least 12 credit hours) each fall and spring semester. No more than 3 credit hours in any semester may be taken in an online or distance education format. If international students drop below full-time, they risk losing their immigration status. Please contact Courtney Shaffer (865-539-7007) before dropping any classes.

Students with international backgrounds are not restricted or compelled to maintain a specific registration status.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

All international students and some students with international backgrounds are subject to different course/degree requirements. These exceptions override articulation agreements and degree audits. International student advisors and the graduation office are aware of these exceptions, making it critical that students meet with their assigned advisor each semester.

Pellissippi State requirements parallel those for the University of Tennessee-Knoxville (UTK). Specific differences are listed below, along with UTK catalog references. Students planning to transfer to other institutions may be subject to different requirements and should check with the receiving institution to verify their policies and requirements.

History Requirement

State law requires that all baccalaureate degree recipients must satisfactorily complete at least one unit of U.S. history at the high school level or 6 credit hours of collegiate work in U.S. history. In order to comply with state law, international students and students with international backgrounds who did not graduate from a United States high school must complete U.S. History I and II (HIST 2010-2020) for their history requirement.

- UTK Catalog Reference:
 - General Requirements for a Bachelor's Degree,
http://catalog.utk.edu/content.php?catoid=1&navoid=156#othe_requ

Foreign Language Requirement

Non-native English speakers can satisfy the intermediate foreign language degree requirement by completing English Composition I, English Composition II, and any two English literature courses. If students elect to complete the foreign language requirement, they must choose a sequence other than their native language.

- UTK Catalog Reference:
 - College of Arts and Sciences, Foreign Language,
http://catalog.utk.edu/content.php?catoid=1&navoid=183#Foreign_Language

International Student Advisors

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