



INTERNATIONAL SERVICES
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International Student Orientation Information

January 2010

All newly admitted International Students are required to attend the International Student and the Eagle View Orientation. Your orientation will be covered over a period of 2 days (see schedule below):

Attendance at orientation is part of complying with U.S. immigration regulations. Therefore, attendance is mandatory at all sessions. Do not schedule any other activity during the orientation days and times. You will have opportunities during these days to attend to your personal affairs in between the Orientation sessions.

Eagle View New Student Orientation

Tuesday, January 5th, 2010 (8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.)

Location: Student Union Building, Ballroom

Advising with Academic Advisors: 10:00 a.m.

International Student Orientation

Tuesday, January 5th, 2010 (3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

Location: Student Union Building, Room 213

Wednesday, January 6th, 2010 (8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)

Location: Library Room 441

Document Processing

Wednesday, January 6th, 2010

Location: Reed Hall Room 125, International Services Office

This orientation is for all new students (international as well as U.S.) who attend FGCU for the first time. You will learn more information about the university and be able to register for classes. You will also receive your FGCU Student ID, University email access, library information, etc...

During the Orientation you will receive essential information about Florida Gulf Coast University, immigration regulations that pertain to your presence in the U.S. and at the University, and you will meet University administrators and students who can assist you. Additionally, it is designed to help you adjust to living and studying in the United States and to welcome you to our University.

U.S. immigration requires that you present yourself with your documents to the University's Designated School Official for processing as you enroll to be a student. (For more information on Designated School Official, see enclosed Pre-arrival Guide). You will be assigned an individual appointment time for your document processing and be given specific instructions during the Orientation session when you arrive. Your document processing will be a 10-15 minute session.

You must bring the following documents with you to your Document Processing appointment:

___ I-20/DS-2019

___ I-94 Card

___ Passport

___ Other immigration documents you have

___ Proof of Health Insurance (See Health Insurance Requirements below)

___ US Social Security Card or individual Tax Payer Identification number (if you currently have one of these numbers)

Pre-Registration for Classes

All new international students will be pre-registered for the first semester of classes, prior to attending Orientation. This pre-registration is required to ensure that you will be enrolled full time and that you are able to enroll into classes appropriate for your major and level of study. Each student is assigned to an Academic Advisor through the entire time the student attends the University. They assist you in selecting appropriate courses and successfully register for classes, and review your personal academic file to ensure that you are completing required classes on schedule. Classes are selected based on individual student circumstances such as degree program requirements, University requirements, and transfer hours, etc.

Your Academic Advisor will contact you (often via e-mail) to arrange for your initial communication about your first semester classes. Your Pre-Registration should be completed before you arrive to Florida Gulf Coast University for the International Student Orientation. During the Eagle View orientation, you will meet your Academic Advisor and have the opportunity to make adjustments to your class schedule if that is necessary. You may also contact the Academic Advising staff at any time, via e-mail at: advising@fgcu.edu or by phone at (239) 590-7875.

Required International Student Health Insurance

Health care and medical service in the U.S. is privately funded and can be very expensive. This is why students must have personal health insurance. The University has limited health care services on campus, which can be utilized for basic health care needs.

International students must comply with the State of Florida Board of Regents (BOR) rule requiring all international students to have health insurance in order to register or enroll in classes. Rule 6C-6.009(6), provides that as of Fall 1992, no foreign student in F-1, F-2, J-1 or J-2 non-immigrant status shall be permitted to register or to continue enrollment at a university without demonstrating that he or she has adequate medical insurance coverage for illness or accidental injury.

All enrolled international students must maintain an approved health insurance policy that meets the requirements of the State of Florida. Florida Gulf Coast University offers an approved health insurance policy for students. The insurance company determines the health insurance fees annually. Information on medical insurance fees will be provided to new students, prior to the start of classes at FGCU (via email, mail or on our website). To ensure students' compliance in meeting the medical insurance requirement, students will be automatically enrolled in the FGCU insurance plan and charges assessed to the student's account, payable at the University's Cashier's office, upon arrival to campus. Every student should be prepared to pay for this insurance when arriving to the university (with a personal check or money order or credit card). **Fee Payment Deadline for this Insurance and University tuition fees is Wednesday, January 13th, 2010 for the Spring Semester.**

If you currently have health insurance that you think may meet our requirements, you may request to waive out of automatic enrollment in the FGCU's medical insurance program, **prior to December 1, 2009**, if you provide evidence of comparable health insurance through another company. Please read the enclosed instruction on how to use the Health Insurance Compliance form. Remember that although you may have some form of health insurance, the University may only accept your insurance if it meets the minimums established by the State of Florida. (The enclosed student Medical Insurance Compliance form outlines the Florida minimum requirements). Many medical insurance programs from outside of the U.S. do not meet the Florida requirements, so we advise you not to purchase medical insurance prior to arriving to FGCU unless we have approved it through the compliance process. It is your responsibility to submit proof of medical insurance each semester to International Services Office in order to allow you to register for classes. Failure to do so may result in holds being placed on your records and could lead to complications, including being dropped from university enrollment and violation of your immigration status.

University Housing

Living on campus is convenient for students and allows them to be more fully involved in university life. Students interested in living in university housing must complete a housing application and pay a deposit with the application. Contact the Housing office at (239) 590-1700, or e-mail to housing@fgcu.edu or visit the website at <http://studentservices.fgcu.edu/housing/>. The International students, who intend to live in university housing and will arrive to the university prior to that date to attend orientation, should contact the housing office. They will advise you of special housing arrangements for your early arrival.