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# ***What Every Advisor Needs to Know about International Students***

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SISS-Service for International Students & Scholars

Academic Advising Coffee Talk

February 19, 2015

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Assistant Director

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STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS**

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International Student Advisor

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## **F/J regulations Academic Advisors should know**

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- **Must maintain 12 units/quarter, not including summer.**
  - **Unless: If summer is first term must maintain 5 units each session (ex. Summer Start, dismissed students, non-transfers only).**
- **International students must receive special authorization to drop below 12 units/quarter and maintain lawful status.**
  - **F-1 students can work on-campus without authorization, J-1 students must have authorization.**
  - **Neither F nor J can work off-campus without authorization.**

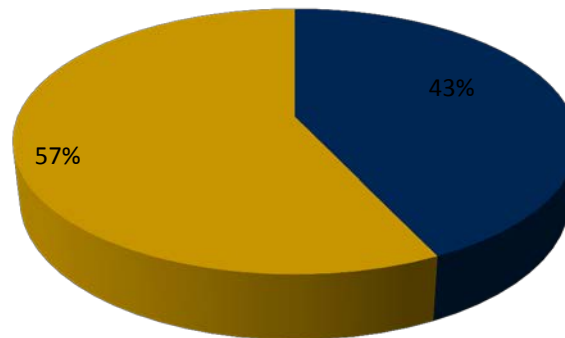
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# Stats

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- 142 dismissed between 200910-201310
- 61 did not return
- 81 did return and either graduated or are in the process of graduating

UG Dismissal Return Rate  
2009-2013



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# Dismissals and International Students

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- **Timing**

- Dismissal based on previous quarter.
- Official notification doesn't come until after the next quarter begins.
- Official notification date for immigration reporting purposes is when 95% of dismissals from all colleges are in Banner.
  - Third week of quarter for fall and winter; fourth week for spring
- Students have 21 days from this date to either leave the country or transfer their SEVIS record.

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# Dismissals and International Students

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- **Issues**

- Financial
- Housing/personal items
- Emotional/mental health
- Immigration status/possible interruption of benefits
- Visa renewal
- Difficult for a student to re-validate immigration status when readmitted for the immediate next term (example: winter to spring)
- Withdrawal option (more expensive, yet more immigration flexibility)

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# Expanded options with earlier timeframe

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- The earlier we know that a student is dismissed, the more options the student has
- Send SD students to us for proactive planning

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# SISS' Process

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- Meet with students
  - They seek us out
  - We seek them out
- Assess their situation, talk about options, explain deadlines
- Send a follow-up email reviewing conversation, including next steps, links to transfer schools and forms, and how to successfully navigate immigration requirements to return to UC Davis

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# **Timeline Example** (winter dismissal, return summer)

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- **Timeline:**
  - Transfer out by February 13, 2015
  - Register for Summer Sessions—Enrollment should open around March 1, 2015
  - Submit your I-20 request for a UC Davis Summer I-20 by May 15, 2015
  - Request that your transfer school transfer your I-20/SEVIS record back to UC Davis by June 1, 2015
  - Apply for readmission for fall by July 31, 2015



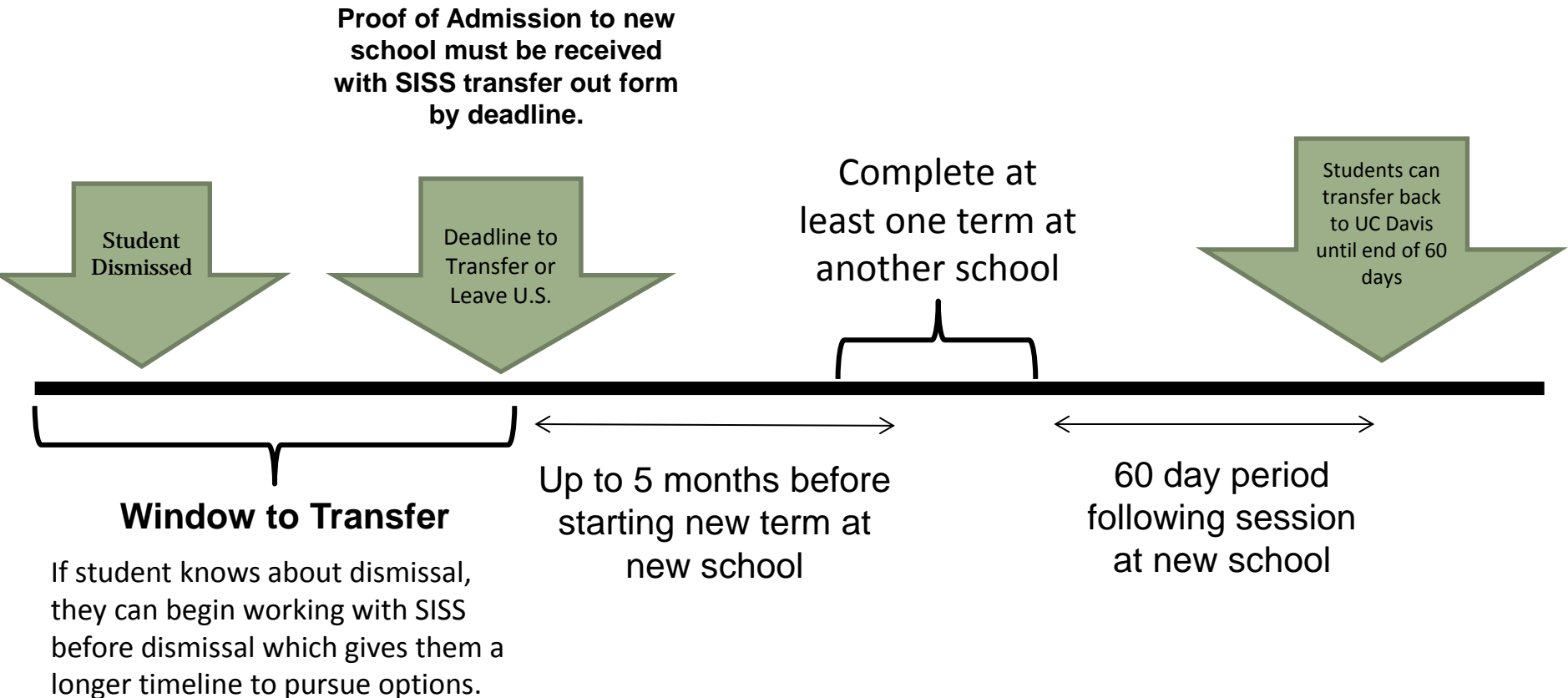
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# Transferring Out & Back

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- Must apply, be accepted, and have SEVIS record/I-20 transferred by the end of the 21 day period.
  - Can be complicated because of quarter/semester start times
  - Language schools as “placeholders”
  - Some go home and return for the following quarter or summer

# Timeline for Successfully Leaving UC Davis



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# Timeline for Returning for Summer Sessions

Proof of Enrollment for Summer Sessions and Registration must occur before issuing a UC Davis I-20

Student Applies for Summer Sessions and a new I-20

Attend Summer Sessions on I-20 for Summer Only

Notification of Readmission (or denial)

Get new I-20 if re-admitted

If outside of U.S., get new Visa if necessary.  
If inside U.S., transfer SEVIS record to UC Davis

Apply for Readmission

60 day period following summer session

Leave U.S. or Transfer if denied

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# Reduced Course load

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- Exception to a full course of study
  - Academic Difficulty  
(must maintain 6 units, not eligible for part-time status for tuition purposes)
    - Initial difficulty with reading requirements
    - Initial difficulty with English language
    - Unfamiliarity with U.S. teaching methods
    - Improper course placement
  - Medical illness or injury  
(can drop to zero units)
    - Letter from a licensed
      - M.D.
      - Dr. of Osteopathy
      - Clinical Psychologist
  - Final quarter
    - Available for undergraduates and graduates from professional schools

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# Advisor contacts

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- Tammy Silver A-G
- Emily Taylor H-Q
- Mary Clabaugh R-Z
  
- Email: [siss@ucdavis.edu](mailto:siss@ucdavis.edu)
- Advisor drop-in hours:
  - Mon. & Thurs. 1-4pm
- Appointments: 530-752-0864

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# How to find us

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- **Our website:**
  - Home page: <http://siss.ucdavis.edu/index.html>
  - Staff page: [http://siss.ucdavis.edu/about\\_us/staff.html](http://siss.ucdavis.edu/about_us/staff.html)
  - Forms page: [http://siss.ucdavis.edu/forms/student\\_forms.html](http://siss.ucdavis.edu/forms/student_forms.html)
  
- **Join Passport: Email Wes Young at:**
  - [wryoung@ucdavis.edu](mailto:wryoung@ucdavis.edu)
  
- **SDPS class:**

June 16, 2015 8:30-12  
136 Hoagland Hall

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# Case Studies

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- Late transfer
- Visa denial—overstay
- Nearly finished

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# Late Transfer Case Study

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## Take Away Points:

- Student met with SISS before the formal dismissal is entered in Banner.
- Student has desirable transfer options due to the increased time.
- Student failed to complete the SEVIS record transfer by the deadline.
- Student is now out of status and must regain status to study legally in the U.S.
- This may affect the student's ability to return to UC Davis (especially if the student needs a visa).



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# Visa Denial Case Study

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## Take Away Points:

- Student successfully transferred to another school by the deadline.
- Student failed to maintain immigration status at the new school.
- Student tried to regain status to study legally in the U.S. through travel.
- Student needed a visa and was denied a visa due to the short program length of the summer session only I-20.
- Student found another way to complete admission requirements but is still unable to return due to the period she was out of status.
- Even when university requirements have been met, some students are limited by immigration requirements.

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# Nearly Finished Case Study

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## Take Away Points:

- Student successfully completed the program of study at UC Davis.
- Student did not maintain immigration status for at least one academic year to be eligible for off-campus work authorization.
- Student is not eligible to stay in the U.S. to take advantage of the post-completion optional practical training, or OPT work authorization.
- Student cannot take an extra quarter of non-required classes to gain work eligibility.

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# Our mission

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- Assist getting international students and scholars to Davis safely and efficiently
- Help students and scholars maintain their legal status while in the U.S.
- Ensure international students and scholars feel welcomed and connected to the Davis campus and community



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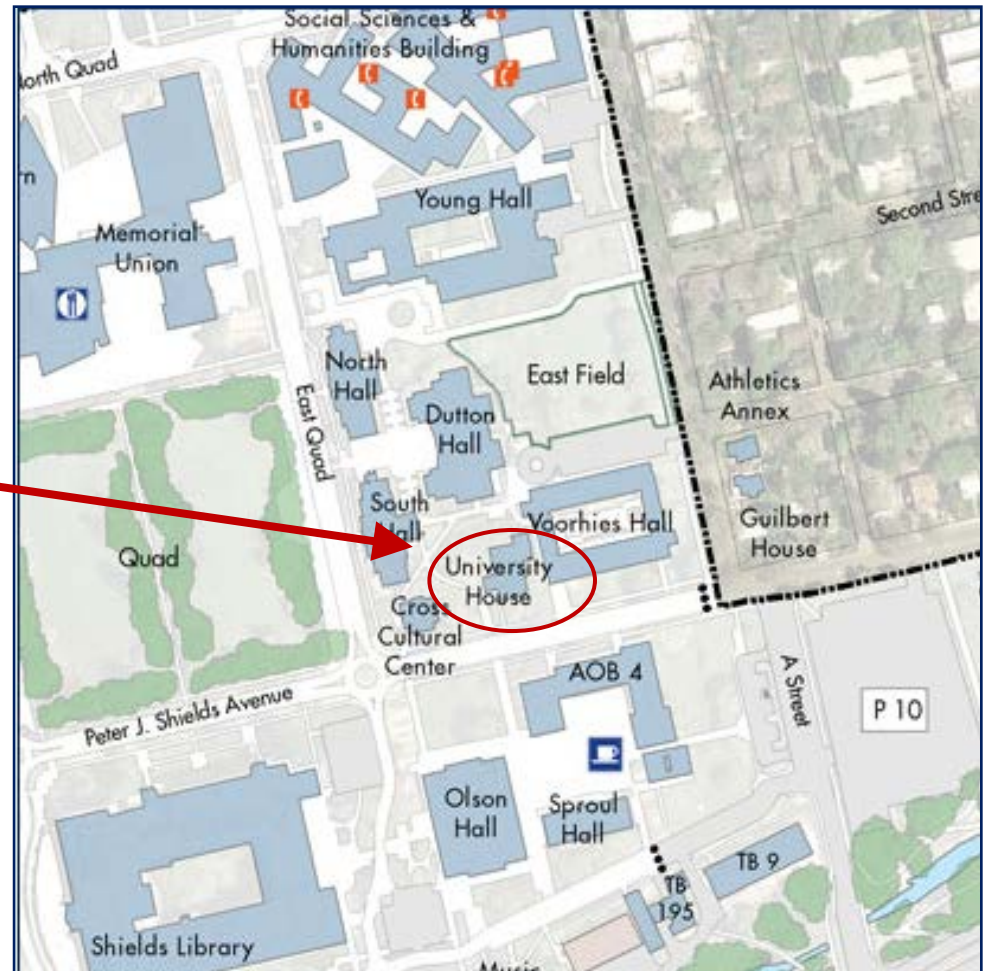
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# Location

Services for International Students  
and Scholars (SISS)

University House on the Campus  
Map

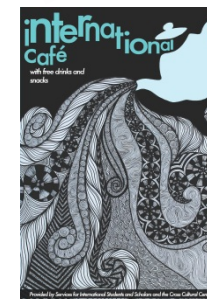
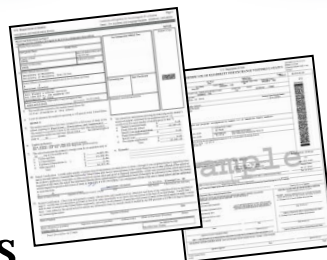


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# Reasons Students Come to SISS

- Learn about international student events & activities
- Attend workshops
- Travel signatures
- Visa information
- Immigration check-in
- Request/pick-up documents
- Work authorization
- Immigration questions
- Housing/roommate concerns
- Health-care questions
- Cultural adjustment issues
- Social security card/ITIN information
- Tax questions
- Driver's license questions, and more...



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# Thank you!

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*Merci beaucoup*  
*Thank You*  
お疲れ様  
*Danke*  
*Gracias*  
*Grazie*  
Danke  
谢谢你  
*Thanks*  
*Obbrigado*

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