



Newly Admitted Student – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

➤ When and how do I pay my tuition fees?

When: You are responsible for paying the balance listed on your Student Center AFTER you have enrolled in a full course load. Please carefully review the due date and [refund policy](#) before paying.

How: Sac State has partnered with [Flywire](#) to provide our international students with an easy, fast, and secure method of sending international tuition payments. But, you may also pay for university tuition and fees by personal check, overseas banker's draft, and certain credit cards, traveler's checks, and cash, however, it is not recommended to arrive in the U.S. with large sums of cash. Payments should be made to "California State University, Sacramento". **Pro-Tip:** Payment through Flywire prior to registration may trigger an automatic refund so only pay the amount listed on your Student Center after you have enrolled in full course load.

There is an Installment Payment Plan (IPP) available to all students if you are unable to pay the balance on your Student Center in full prior to the start of the semester. The plan divides the fees into 4 separate installments. You will need to enroll in the IPP using your Student Center. There is a one-time non-refundable administrative fee to sign up for the IPP. Please see the [Bursar's Office](#) for instructions and more details on the due dates and fees associated with these plans.

➤ Why have I been admitted as 'pre-major' or 'expressed interest'?

This admission designation means that you have been admitted to an [impacted major](#). This means that the number of applications received exceeds the number of available spaces in the program. We assure you that students that have been admitted into an impacted major are admitted to Sacramento State for which they wish to start; however, you must successfully complete specific pre-requisite courses, meet the minimum GPA, and submit a supplemental application to the department prior to being formally admitted to the program.

➤ Why have I been admitted as a conditionally classified graduate student?

There are two designations of admission at the graduate level for international students. The first is **classified** and the second is **conditionally classified**. If your admission letter stated that you have been admitted without conditions as a classified student, you may proceed directly into master's level coursework in the first term. If you have been admitted as conditionally classified student, you are required to meet certain conditions or pre-requisites courses prior to moving into master's only courses. Please note that pre-requisite courses may be taken while also pursuing 1-2 master's specific courses during the term.

The conditions have been designated to you on behalf of the graduate coordinator who reviewed your application. Should you have questions regarding these specific conditions and are seeking clarification, please email the graduate coordinator listed on the bottom of your admission letter for further guidance.

➤ **What is Hornet Launch?**

The Hornet Launch Program pre-enrolls first-time, first-year students in their **first year**. The structured schedules created for students provide meaningful, productive classes to ensure all new freshmen students are on track to graduate in four years. More information about Hornet Launch can be found on their website: [Hornet Launch](#).

➤ **Do students have to take the courses they have been pre-enrolled in for Hornet Launch? Can I make changes to my schedule?**

No, you are not locked into the courses you have been pre-enrolled in. However, you will need to seek advising with an IPGE staff member to address your needs and why you are seeking to change a course. Changes can be made during the late registration period or with approval from the department. Remember, as a first-time freshman student, your classes your **first year** have been carefully selected to ensure academic success and progress.

➤ **Why am I not registered in all major courses?**

As an incoming first time freshman or transfer student, your semesters are a balance of major specific and [general education \(GE\)](#) courses. A combination of courses in the first couple of years of your program ensure that you are building the foundation for a successful academic and personal career at Sacramento State. Please check in with an IPGE staff member who can walk you through your major specific “roadmap” that details this balance of major and GE courses. After your first semester, you will begin working with a major advisor who will use this roadmap to ensure you are staying on track to graduate in a timely way.

➤ **Can I change my major?**

If you have decided that you would like to pursue a different major, please let us know prior to the start of the semester. You can email intlinfo@csus.edu with your Sacramento State ID and full name and a brief email describing a request for us to change it.

➤ **How do I know who my major advisor is?**

Prior to your first term at Sacramento State, you will not see a major advisor listed just yet on your Student Center. Most major advising has been centralized to a college. Your major belongs to a particular [academic college](#) and each college has its own [student success center](#) that specializes in advising students who have a major in that college. These advisors are your best resource when determining what classes to take for your major.

➤ **When will my transfer credit be posted?**

If you are a domestic transfer student from a U.S. community college or university, please email intlinfo@csus.edu with your Sacramento State ID, first and last name, and the name of the institution you are missing credit from. We will verify with the Registrar's Office whether your official transcripts have been received. If they have not been received, we request that you order an electronic copy and have it sent directly to incomingtranscripts@csus.edu as soon as possible.

If your transcripts have been received, we will communicate with the Transfer Credit Evaluation (transfer@csus.edu) team to assist with posting your transfer credit as soon as possible. Please be aware that this process may take 1-2 weeks.

If you are an international transfer student with credit from a non-U.S. based institution, please email intlinfo@csus.edu with your Sacramento State ID, first and last name, and the name of the institution you are missing credit from. We will verify that official transcripts have been received. If we are still missing them, you are requested to send an official set of transcripts to our office so that we may assist with posting your transfer credit as soon as possible.

➤ **When do I have to arrive in the US?**

Under the guidelines of the F1 student visa, students may enter the U.S. no earlier than 30 days prior to the start of the semester.

New students are encouraged to arrive for the mandatory Sac State Orientation and IPGE new student check-in. Please refer to your I-20 Remarks section for the Orientation date. Students will have the opportunity to receive a campus tour, review course registration, drop off documents such as official transcripts, pick up a welcome bag, and connect with other new students on these days. While the orientation date is reflected on your I-20 Remarks section, details will be finalized in July and the full schedule posted on the [ISSS New Student Orientation page](#).

If you anticipate arriving later than the scheduled orientation, please keep the IPGE staff informed so that we can accommodate for your arrival and schedule you for the late orientation.

➤ **I do not think I will be able to secure my visa in time for Orientation. Can I defer my admission to the next academic term?**

No, applicants will need to re-apply.

➤ **I want to live on campus. How do I start the process?**

If you choose to live on campus, you will be required to submit the housing application online. However, prior to completing the online application, you are **strongly recommended** to review the [IPGE ISSS Housing Information](#) which also provides the hyperlink to the University Housing website. The University Housing website provides detailed steps on how to apply for housing. It is important that you read all materials carefully prior to starting this process.

Applying to on-campus housing also requires that you set up your SacLink account at: <https://mysamlink.csus.edu/>.

Steps for Applying to On-Campus Housing are provided at the [IPGE ISSS Housing Information](#)

➤ **Is health insurance required?**

Yes, all F-1 and J-1 students will be automatically enrolled in the **CSU-approved Anthem Student Advantage Plan Summary** health insurance policy administered by JCB Insurance Solutions. Enrollment questions can be directed to Alex Shigenaga at Alex.shigenaga@csus.edu. Information about the policy and associated fees can be found on the [IPGE International Student Health Insurance](#) page.

➤ **Can I speak to an admissions counselor?**

Absolutely! It's easy to connect with our admissions team via email, over phone, or on Zoom. Depending on the letter your surname (last name) begins with, you'll be working with one admissions counselor through the entire application review process, even up until you arrive on campus. Email us: intlinfo@csus.edu and we can point you in the right direction.