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 2 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 a 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, you will want to email the graduate coordinator listed on the bottom of your admission letter for further guidance.
Do students have to take the courses they have been pre-enrolled in? 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.

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 and 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. Once the term begins, students will be assigned to a major advisor, however you may also begin searching for one in the Sacramento State Directory by identifying the department.

Keep in mind that during your time at Sacramento State, you will have a number of advisers in addition to your major specific adviser. They include Academic Advising for General Education and graduation requirement advising, as well as the team at IPGE for admissions and immigrations related support.

When will my transfer credit be posted?

If you are a domestic transfer student from a US 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-US 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. Therefore, the earliest date of arrival for the Spring 2021 term would be December 27, 2020. However, all new students must attend one document check-in day and the mandatory International Student Orientation to be held January 2020. Please stay tuned for dates on our website.

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?

Yes, you will be able to defer your admission to next available term. If you are seeking to defer, you are requested to reach out to intlinfo@csus.edu with your Sacramento State ID, first and last name, and brief description summarizing your reasons for deferring. Once this has been received, an international admission staff will reach out to you for further instructions. Please note that additional supporting documents may be requested such as updated transcripts, test scores, or financial support documents.

➢ 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 Before You Apply section on the University Housing website. 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://mysaclink.csus.edu/.

Steps for Applying to On-Campus Housing:

- Set-Up your Sac Link ID. Creating an account can take up to 3 business days. We suggest completing this step as soon as you receive your admissions email from our Admissions staff.
- Read the Housing Policies and Procedures carefully.
- Submit the housing application through the Sac State Housing Portal. You are encouraged to apply as soon as the housing application opens. Housing applications received after the first 2 weeks may be subject to being waitlisted.
  - Fall term opens: March 1
  - Spring term opens: October 1

(Application dates may be subject to change. Please visit https://www.csus.edu/student-life/housing/ to access the housing application.)
- Submit the non-refundable $250 application installment fee. This fee is required to complete the application and must be paid through your University account. The housing application will not be considered complete until this installment fee is paid.
- Check your Sac Link (campus) email. All notification regarding on-campus housing and the status of your application will be sent only through your SacLink email. Please check for messages on a daily basis.

➢ Can I speak to an admissions counselor?

Absolutely! It’s easy to connect with our admissions team via email, over phone, or via Zoom. Each team member handles a different part of the alpha. 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.

Feel free to email them directly:

Ms. Karla Piacentini – karla.piacentini@csus.edu (last name alpha A – M)
Ms. Stephanie Ingvaldson – ingvaldson@csus.edu (last name alpha N – Z)

Due to COVID-19, the International Admissions office will be conducting all business processes online. Business hours are 8 am – 5 pm (Pacific Standard Time) and staff may be reached via email or Zoom for advising appointments.

Still not sure who to contact?

Email us: intlinfo@csus.edu and we can point you in the right direction.