

Proposal for Establishing an International Student Academic Success Community

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NACADA's vision emphasizes the advancement of student success through academic advising. Student success is the soul of academic advising efforts. The current thirty-seven advising communities (AC) support a wide range of student populations, but none focuses on international students. By the numbers, there are 5.6 million university students studying outside their home countries in 2018 (OECD, 2020). In 2020, there are over 1 million international students studying in the U.S. and over 340,000 U.S. students studying outside the U.S. (IIE, 2021). These data show the size of the international student population and portray the potential effect on advisor caseload. As with many other student subpopulations international students bring with them a unique set of challenges and best practices for student success. The existing scholarly work and initiatives in the field of student success rarely discusses facilitating academic success for international students. This is an area overlooked by many higher education institutions and professional organizations in the world.

In the COVID world, many professionals advocate for more supports to international students. Nevertheless, many institutions still take a traditional approach to support them, such as visa services, English language improvement, social supports, and others. To build a sustainable model of enrolling and retaining international students, universities and advising must proactively invest time and efforts to define and deliver outcomes related to international students' academic success. Institutions need to think holistically about the entire international student experience. Strategies and initiatives with a focus on international student educational achievement need to be assessed with a focus on retention.

Syracuse University is a leading university, having identified this challenge and has created programs and initiatives facilitating international student success. In addition, Syracuse University's proposal on this topic to the 2022 annual conference of Association of International Educators (NAFSA), along with professors from U.K. and Singapore, has been accepted (pending on official notice). This area is drawing more and more attention from professors, academic advising professionals, and international educators.

The proposed International Student Success Community aims to:

1. Define and redefine academic success for international students in the context of emerging discourse and research on inclusive teaching, learning, and advising.
2. Discuss current and emerging trends in facilitating academic success for international students.
3. Share best high impact practices.
4. Develop strategies and initiatives that help international students succeed.
5. Create an international student success model