

## **ESL Meeting**

**29 Jan 2016**

**Stephen, Brent, Nancy, George**

What are success/retention rates for international students as opposed to residents in ESL?

What would be the impact on advising when ESL merges?

How does accreditation tie into all of this?

International students require:

- high school diploma
- placement exam

International students:

- at least 25% have bachelors degree from home countries
- many are already multilingual, and so English is not their “second” language

We need comparative numbers on success rates of resident vs. international students.

Numbers of international students (usually stays the same between 360-390):

- Spring 2016: 360 international students
- Fall 2015: 90 new students → 385 total students / 50 in KESL
- Fall term on average 70-90 new students arrive
- Spring term on average 40-60 new students arrive

IR: what about those comparative numbers???

Students arriving from outside the country can arrive up to 30 days before beginning of term in accordance with government visa regulations.

International student orientation:

- Fall orientation is 2 weeks prior to beginning of term.
- Spring orientation is 1 week prior to beginning of term. The week before that is holiday season with the college closed anyway which makes early testing and placement more difficult.

Can we speed up international student enrollment by requiring foreign students to test overseas before their arrival using TOEFL, IELTS, or ITEP? Nancy: The fact that we do not require a TOEFL score prior to arrival is in fact an attraction for foreign students. Many of them come here BECAUSE we do not require TOEFL.

According to Nancy, Clifton Sanders said that all reference to global/international students has been taken out of the college's strategic planning.

Stephen: The research indicates that early required placement/enrollment does aid retention. It is harmful to the students' success and retention to allow them to come in just prior to beginning of term or during the first week or two of classes.

Do international students also face challenges to retention by arriving so close to beginning of term? As Nancy says, they are not arriving "late." They have been preparing for this mentally and legally long before their arrival.

Currently, international students could fail three terms in a row before they face visa/status ramifications, whereas resident students face losing financial aid by failing for just one term. Nancy would like international students to be held more responsible in such a way.

International Student Services website: <https://www.slcc.edu/iss/general-info/>

Agreed upon:

- we need to look at changing deadlines—dates that would move these students into college placement/enrollment sooner
- can we require an international test score prior to their arrival, such as TOEFL, IELTS, ITEP
- work on revising placement so that our students are not, as Brent says "leaking" out of ESL and into 900/990 because of that Reading placement score being dropped from 40 to 30.