



Arriving Late to Commerce

We strongly recommend that international students plan their travel itinerary to ensure arrival in Commerce in a timely manner to allow time to take care of their responsibilities with the ISSO. **All new international students are required to check-in with an international advisor *in person* and attend the mandatory international student orientation before being eligible to register for classes.** Students that arrive late and miss the international student orientation and check-in with an international advisor will be seriously delayed in being eligible to register for classes. This can lead to delays and could possibly create problems with your visa status. To avoid any problems please arrive in Commerce *at least* one day prior to the international student orientation which is scheduled the Thursday before the start of each fall, spring, and summer session 1 semester. The ISSO will not grant permission for students to arrive later than their program start date on line 5 of their I-20.

Please keep in mind that students who arrive after the international student orientation or after their program start date on line 5 of the I-20 may face the following difficulties:

- Our office has discussed international students arriving later than their program start date on line 5 of the I-20 with the port of entry in Dallas and Customs and Border Protection which is a division of immigration that supervises the port of entries. **Port of entry has stated that there is no guarantee a student will be allowed to enter the U.S. after their program start date on line 5 of their I-20.** Also, if a student arrives over the weekend then the port of entry has indicated that they may “detain” a student until the next business day so they can confirm the student’s status with immigration.
- All new international students are required to check-in with our office in person at and students must also attend the mandatory international student orientation before being eligible to register for classes. **Students arriving late will be seriously delayed in being eligible to register for classes.**
- After the 4th day of class (fall/spring), any student trying to register for classes is required to have written permission from the dean of their college and the instructor of all courses they will enroll in. **Some professors and or the dean MAY NOT be willing to grant permission to any student who arrives after the 4th day of class (fall/spring) to register for courses.** If this occurs and students are not able to register for classes then they will be in immediate violation of their visa status which will jeopardize their ability to remain in the U.S.
- The later a student arrives the less likely there will be classes available within their specific academic program. Immigration requires international students to enroll in a minimum number of classes each fall and spring semester and the only classes within your degree plan/program will count toward this requirement. If students are unable to enroll in the minimum number of classes as required by immigration then they will be in immediate violation of their visa status which will jeopardize their ability to remain in the U.S.

Students who are not able to arrive in Commerce for the start of their first semester are encouraged to defer their admission to the following semester. Please click [here](#) to defer your admission.