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Studies and Curricular Requirements for International Students

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STUDIES AND CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International students enrolled at Saint Mary's College are required to take courses or labs developed to assist them in their assimilation to the U.S. academic rigor and greater U.S. culture. The required course is **SMS 15**, a course designed to give students a working platform on which to compare their native culture to U.S. culture.

The English composition requirement for non-native speakers of English is the same as that for native English speakers with the additional requirement of the **SMS 23/24 Writing Lab**, a quarter credit lab to be taken in conjunction with **English 3** or **4**.

All non-native English-speaking students, both freshmen and transfer, regardless of visa status, must take the Writing Placement exam offered during the International Student Orientation in August. The results of this exam will determine a student's placement in Composition and the corresponding SMS Writing Lab. As a result of the Writing Placement exam, some students may be placed in **English 3**, Practice in Writing, which is a prerequisite to **English 4**. Students placed in the SMS Writing Lab must complete the full series of corresponding labs as part of their Composition requirement unless they test out of the lab through a Writing Challenge Test administered prior to the spring semester.

FACULTY COMMITTEE OVERSEEING INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Mary Susan Miller Reid, M.A., *Director, Center
of International Programs*

Jennifer Heung, Ph.D., *Chair of Anthropology*

Hilda Ma, Ph.D., *English, Director of Composition*

José Feito, *Collegiate Seminar*

Michael McKeon, *Admissions*

The SMS Labs help support **English 3**, **English 4**, and **English 5**, as well as other first-year courses that have significant writing requirements and would give non-native English speakers a better chance of succeeding in all of their courses.

Students will gain:

- greater fluency in written English.
- understanding of course expectations at Saint Mary's regarding writing.
- increased proficiency in English grammar and vocabulary.
- better understanding of the stages of assembling an essay (including thesis formation, overall essay organization, paragraph development, and effective sentence construction) through focused work on each stage.
- better writing habits gained through practice in assessing writing assignments across the disciplines, setting writing schedules, brainstorming and drafting techniques, and revising essays.

REQUIRED COURSE

SMS 15 American Culture and Civilization

A survey course delivered through the Anthropology Department provides the student with the tools to interpret and evaluate culture from a social science perspective. The approach is a cross-cultural comparative model using American values, life-styles and traditions within a framework of the day-to-day workings of American culture. Course work is composed of lectures, readings, discussions and fieldwork projects. The course is required of all international students and must be taken during the first semester of attendance. In certain cases, permission for exemption may be granted upon evaluation by the Faculty Committee and Registrar. *This course satisfies the Social, Historical, and Cultural Understanding requirement and the American Diversity requirement of the Core Curriculum.*