A UUD ADVISOR’S GUIDE FOR FIRST SEMESTER INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The Undergraduate University Division (UUD) advisers would like to warmly welcome you both to our university and our country. We hope it is a wonderful, exciting, productive and academically successful experience for you. We know you will experience many challenges with adjusting to a new culture, a new educational system and a new language. You are welcome to meet with the UUD advisers in the Neighborhoods located throughout campus for assistance with any difficulties which you may encounter.

Following are some suggestions that will help to make your first semester at MSU a successful experience:

Course Syllabus
Read the syllabus on the first day of class. Among other things, the syllabus will outline the instructor’s expectations for the class, the grading scale, dates for quizzes and exams and contact information for the instructors and Teacher Assistants (TA’s).

Attendance at Class
Regular attendance in class is important to your academic success. You will learn more and usually get a higher grade if you attend class on a regular basis. It will also help improve your language skills. Some classes have an attendance policy in which you will receive a lowered grade or even fail the class if you exceed the number of allowed absences (such as WRA courses).

Advising
Do not rely on your friends for academic advising. When in doubt about a specific university policy or choice of classes, see an advisor – either the advisor for your major or a UUD Advisor.

Keep Track of Important Dates
Use a planner (either a calendar function on your smart phone or a paper planner) to keep track of important academic dates, drop deadlines, assignment due dates, quizzes, and exam dates.

Academic Difficulty
If you are struggling in a class, there are a number of options for help. There are many free tutoring resources on campus and other resources to help you develop effective study skills. Instructors and TA’s are there to help you; that’s why they have office hours. The worst thing you can do if you are having difficulty is to stop going to class because it is too difficult. Not going to class is a sure way to fail a class. If you need help in a class, see your instructor and/or an adviser to discuss your options.
Repeating a Class
Yes, there is a university repeat policy, but there is a limit on how many credits you may repeat (20 credits). Do not stop going to your classes or voluntarily skip exams with the plan of repeating courses the following semester. See an adviser to discuss the consequences of purposefully failing coursework and for an explanation of the university repeat policy.

Emergencies
Emergencies happen which can affect your ability to attend class or successfully complete the work for the class. If you have a serious illness or accident, contact your instructor(s) and/or an adviser as soon as possible regarding options for continuing with your coursework. If the emergency involves a family member and you need to leave campus for an extended period of time, DO NOT just stop going to classes without contacting an adviser. Leaving campus, which results in a failing grade for all coursework, can result in Recess from the university.

Helpful University Resources

UUD Home Page
https://uud.msu.edu

Neighborhood Advising Locations
http://uud.msu.edu/Documents/Location.pdf

Learning Resources Center Homepage
http://lrc.msu.edu/

First Year Information
http://fyi.msu.edu/

Registrar’s Office
http://reg.msu.edu/

Office for International Students and Scholars
http://oiss.isp.msu.edu/