

Transferring to CSU: *General information for FTU Advanced Program Students about FTU-2-CSU*

As an Advanced Program student, you have been participating in CSU-@-FTU, and now you are looking toward FTU-2-CSU! We are proud of your performance in the CSU-@-FTU classes, and we will be proud to welcome you to CSU. We want to make your transfer and transition as smooth as possible, and to make your CSU year fully successful!

Stages and steps

Here are the stages you will proceed through, in order, as you pursue the transfer process:

- **Course work at FTU**: You should aim for maximum success in your studies, register for the appropriate amount of CSU credit for your CSU-at-FTU courses, and understand your degree requirements.
- **Application**: You will submit all your required information, and awaiting the committee's admission decision
- **Visa paperwork**: With your admission application or immediately afterward, you will submit to CSU the documents to support issuance of the I-20 form, which you use to make a visa application to the US Embassy in Hanoi.
- **Housing**: You should submit the online housing application and fee, immediately after admission, if you wish to assure a spot in CSU-provided housing.
- **Transfer credit evaluation**: This step happens automatically on the basis of your FTU transcript submitted with your application, and later updated after your most recent FTU course work is completed. You can always access your RamWeb record to check whether your FTU transfer credit is correctly recorded.
- **Registration Ready**:
- **Course registration**: At the time designated by the CSU computer registration system, you may register for your required and elective courses. Your choices will depend on a mix of (1) your cohort's previous course program, (2) your personal CSU credit situation, (3) your personal preferences, and (4) course availability at the time you register.
- **Travel and arrival**: At your convenience, you may schedule your air travel to Denver International Airport. Upon arrival at CSU, you will settle into your housing, check-in with International Programs, get your RamCard and bank account, and also participate in International Student Orientation according to the established schedule.
- **Start of classes**: Fall semester starts on a Monday, around 20 August. Spring semester starts on a Tuesday, around 20 January.
- **Tuition payment due**: Fall semester tuition is billed after your course schedule is finalized, usually about 2 weeks after the start of classes.

This document summarizes the latest basic information about transferring, and should be useful to students in all cohorts, and to students doing a 3+1 plan or a 2+2 plan. While there are separate documents providing details of the curriculum plan for each cohort, in this document you will find information on the transfer steps summarized above.

For each step, specialized CSU staff members are available to help answer questions or solve problems. Their contact information is provided in the sections below. Of course you may always contact Prof. Karen Gebhardt, who is the program coordinator, at Karen.Gebhardt@colostate.edu

Curriculum and credits

This section outlines the general requirements for a CSU Bachelor's degree, with an Economics Major and a Business Minor, and with an emphasis in international economics fitting the mission of FTU and supporting the dual degree option. The information here pertains to the CSU degree; if you intend to earn a dual degree, you must also satisfy FTU's requirements, and should be informed by FTU about the requirements.

Overview of CSU degree requirements

The CSU degree requirements include the following main components as part of a total requirement of 120 credits:

- All-University Core Curriculum (AUCC) . . . in some form these requirements must be met by all CSU undergraduates, regardless of their major.
- Economics Department Requirements . . . this includes completing a minor, which for FTU transfer students should be the Business minor.
- Electives . . . for CSU purposes these can be any courses of interest to you, but you may need to focus on a smaller selection if you intend to have your electives count toward your FTU degree.
- Upper Division: Of the 120 credits, at least 42 must be "upper division" (numbered 300 or higher), and of the 42, at least 30 must be earned from CSU.

3+1 Plan . . . the "Basic Scenario"

- Usually you need a minimum of 9 CSU-@-FTU credits before you come to CSU. These can be from any 3 of the 5 or 6 upper-division CSU courses taught at FTU.
- If you do not register for CSU credit, your CSU-@-FTU courses earn FTU credit.
- CSU awards "transfer credit" for FTU credits with grades \geq 5.
- Your Year 4 will normally involved 31 credits at CSU.
- Earning more than 9 CSU-@-FTU credits gives more options for your Year 4 at CSU.

Under the 3+1 plan, the 120 credits can be summarized as follows:

By curricular category:

- AUCC – 22 credits
- Economics and Business
– 63 credits
- Electives – 35 credits

By Upper / Lower Division:

- Lower division transfer credit from FTU – approximately 44 credits
- Lower division at CSU – 10 credits
- Upper division transfer credit from FTU – approximately 36 credits
- Upper division from CSU@FTU – 9 credits
- Upper division at CSU – 21 credits

Summary of the year at CSU

Details may vary by cohort and individual, but here is what would be typical:

- Two science courses & lab . . . 7 credits
- CO 150 and CO 300 . . . required writing courses . . . 6 credits
- Two upper division ECON courses including ECON 492 . . . 6 credits
- BUS 405 . . . for the Business minor . . . 3 credits
- Upper division electives . . . 9 credits
- = 31 credits total (16 + 15 per semester)

For questions about the degree requirement plan, contact Prof. Karen Gebhardt, Karen.Gebhardt@colostate.edu

Applying to CSU

Complete, correct, and up-to-date information can be found at the official CSU Admissions website:

<http://admissions.colostate.edu/international>

Here is some basic advice:

- To transfer in August, try to make sure your application is complete by March 1.
- The earlier you complete your application, the earlier you will be accepted, and the more sure it will be that you can register as soon as possible for the courses you need and get the housing you want.
- Admission is not guaranteed just because you are in our program at FTU ... you must meet the same requirements as all international transfer applicants. A few FTU transfer applicants have been denied admission to CSU.

Admission requirements include the following:

- “Strong candidates” will have a GPA from FTU of at least B- (7.0) ... admission is possible with lower grades, but not lower than a C average (5.0).
- Math background: All FTU students meet the requirement.
- English proficiency: At least 6.0 on IELTS or 71 on TOEFL-ibt
(For August admission, take your IELTS or TOEFL in the preceding Fall, to make sure your results can be reported by March.)

Application components include:

- On-line application, fully completed
- Application fee: USD 50 (by credit card)
- Personal essay
- Official FTU transcript including Fall 2011
- TOEFL or IELTS results reported directly to CSU
- One letter of recommendation from a teacher

To inquire about the status of your application for admission or to resolve procedural problems, please directly contact your admissions counselor:

- Lorelei Haas, Lorelei.Haas@colostate.edu or Nate Duggins, Nathan.Duggins@colostate.edu
- and cc your academic advisor, Bruce Shields, Bruce.Shields@colostate.edu

Housing Options

You have 3 general housing options:

1. University Village apartments: You live with one or two other students in a 2-bedroom apartment. Most FTU transfer students have chosen this option and enjoyed it.
2. CSU Residence Hall options: This is a more traditional dormitory setting, but the housing is high quality and meals are included. A few FTU transfer students have chosen and enjoyed this option.
3. The private Fort Collins housing market: You are fully free to explore this option but the program administration is not available to help you with it.

University Village Apartments

- You share an apartment with one or two other students. You can request your friends as housemates.
- Sharing an apartment is cheaper than renting a room in a Residence Hall.
- However, you need to do all your own food shopping and cooking.
- University Village is about 1.5 kilometers from the main classroom buildings.
- Most students go to campus by bicycle or bus.
- The cost is about USD 450-550 per person per month, depending on the options you choose.
- Every apartment has wifi, and there is a convenient laundry facility, etc.

Residence Halls

- Depending on availability, you either have one roommate or you have a single room.
- This option offers more social life with Americans.
- A large variety of good food is included, with several options for food plans.
- The Residence Halls generally are more convenient to classroom buildings.
- Communal living brings with it the possibility of roommate issues, or noisy co-residents.
- Wifi is provided and laundry facilities are convenient, as well as some communal cooking space.
- The cost is USD 5000-6000 per semester, depending on room choice and food plan choice..

Application information

- Complete information about options and rates is available at <http://www.housing.colostate.edu/>.
- Immediately after you are notified of your admission, you should complete the online housing application and pay the deposit fee, in order to reserve your space.
- If you have questions or complications about your University Village application, you should contact Ms. Maria Martinez, Director of Apartment Life, at Maria.Martinez@colostate.edu. Be sure to identify yourself as an FTU-Vietnam student.

Costs and Scholarships

Each year, CSU produces an estimate of the comprehensive cost of education and living expenses for a year. This estimate is important for your financial planning, and also is the amount of financial resources you will need to prove, for the visa process.

Estimated Costs

This estimate is updated every year, and the latest information can be found at:

<http://iss.colostate.edu/forms/estimatedexpenses.pdf>

For 2013-14 the estimated costs are:

- Tuition and fees: \$25,332
- Living expenses: \$12,135
- Books & health insurance: \$2,516
- TOTAL: \$39,983

CSU International Partner Scholarship

All FTU program participants receive this scholarship, and are not eligible for other CSU scholarships:

- 4,000 per semester x 2 = \$8,000

Net cost / resources to prove

Taking the scholarship into account, the net cost for which you will need to show resources is:

- \$32,100

Campus employment

- To help with expenses, some FTU students have found part-time on-campus employment, which is allowed under the conditions of a student visa.
- Normally the jobs will be of the “Campus Student Hourly” type.
- More information is available at <http://ses.colostate.edu/> with specific job listings available through RamWeb.

Visa Issues

- When you are admitted and prove financial resources, CSU will issue your I-20, which you will use to apply to the US Embassy in Hanoi for your visa.
- If useful, the CSU-FTU program coordinator can issue a letter of explanation about our academic program and your transfer plan.
- Your visa will be type F-1 (student).
- You must maintain full-time student status each semester (12 credits).
- You are allowed an on-campus job of <=; 20 hours per week.
- You automatically are allowed to stay in the US 60 days after your studies end.
- You may be able to apply for an Optional Practical Training (OPT) extension of your visa for 1 year, to pursue an internship or employment related to your field of study.

For questions about your visa process, please contact Erin Tompkins, Erin.Tompkins@colostate.edu

Support Systems

Your year at CSU will involve adventuring to a new country, experiencing a new culture, and perhaps for the first time living far from your family. We want to assure you and your family that you will have many sources of support during your year.

- More than 30 CSU faculty members have taught at FTU, lived in Hanoi, may have had you in class, and will be available for academic and general advice.
- We have 3 FTU faculty members who are graduate students in the Department of Economics.
- There always are several graduated FTU-to-CSU students who continue into graduate school are a rich source of experience and advice.
- You and your friends will be part of the Vietnamese Student Association, which organizes events and connects you with other Vietnamese undergraduate and graduate students.
- The International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) department, part of the Office of International Programs, provides visa support, cultural orientation, and options for activities and excursions.
- The staff at your apartment complex or residence hall are available to offer 24-hour help.
- For health issues, the CSU Health and Medical Center, is a high-quality clinic available to offer you treatment and advice. The Center is located on the northwest corner of College Ave and Prospect Rd.
- The Fort Collins International Friends organization can offer you a local friend to let you make connections to the community and better know the culture.