December 1, 2023- Good luck on Finals!

ISSS Announcements:
- Winter Session Operations (December 13 - January 12)
- Travel Reminders for Winter Break
- OPT Application Instructions for Fall Graduates
- Reminders for Graduating Students
- ETAP Graduate Courses - helpful for second language learners (Winter + Spring 24)

Other Announcements/Upcoming Events
- StudyNY Photo Contest
- Beware of Scams!

ISSS Advising Hours

In-Person or by Phone (518-591-8172) through December 12

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday from 1:00-3:30pm
- No appointment needed, just visit Science Library G-40 or call 518-591-8172

Student and scholars can also email ISSS@albany.edu for assistance. The email inbox is monitored Monday-Friday during business hours.
Winter Session Operations (December 13 - January 12)

Starting December 13th, University hours of operation will be Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm.

The Science Library building will be closed to the public from December 13th through January 12th. ISSS will not offer in person services this time but will be fully operational virtually. Students may continue to submit EForm requests and email questions to ISSS@albany.edu.

Students may also schedule a 1-on-1 appointment on Zoom if needed.

If you have mail delivered to ISSS during this time you can arrange to have it sent to you or arrange an in person pick up during an available time.

University offices, including ISSS, will be closed the following holidays:

- Monday December 25 (Christmas)
- Monday January 1 (New Years)

Travel Reminders for Winter Break

Traveling this break? Please review the required documents and other considerations for travel. If you need help or have questions please speak with an ISSS advisor:

If you will travel please make sure to request a travel signature on your I-20 or DS-2019. This travel signature is required when re-entering the U.S., not when leaving the U.S.

Please make sure you have all documentation required to re-enter the U.S. This includes an I-20/DS-2019 with a valid travel signature when re-entering the U.S. (travel signatures for enrolled students are valid for 1 year; travel signatures for students on OPT are valid for 6 months), a valid passport (with at least 6 months validity remaining), and a valid F-1/J-1 visa. Students on OPT must also carry their EAD card and are highly encouraged to carry proof of employment. If your OPT is pending please speak to an ISSS advisor before traveling internationally.

Read More
OPT Application Instructions for Fall Graduates

Important OPT Dates for Fall Graduates to Know:

- I-20 Program End Date for students graduating this Fall: December 12, 2023
  - Bachelor's/Master's students graduating this Fall will all have a program end date of December 12, 2023
  - PhD students may use defense date, thesis submission date, or last date of final term as the program end date for post-completion OPT purposes. The date you choose will change your application timetable, see OPT workshop for details.
- Filing Opens September 14th for students with a December 12, 2023 program end date
- Filing Closes February 9th for students with a December 12, 2023 program end date
- Students with a December 12, 2023 program end date may submit a request for an OPT start date for any date in this range: December 13, 2023-February 9, 2024

Students who are graduating and planning to apply for Post-Completion OPT Work Authorization should complete the following steps to apply:

1. Watch the required OPT workshop
2. Review all instructions on the OPT Request EForm website, including the Supplemental Forms and Instructions
3. Submit the EForm to ISSS to request a new I-20 recommending you for post-completion OPT
4. File with DHS-USCIS within 30 days of receiving the new I-20 from ISSS recommending you for post-completion OPT

If you have questions please speak with an ISSS advisor.

Reminders for Graduating Students

Graduating this semester? Congratulations! Here are some reminders:

1. You must apply to graduate in MyUAlbany to have your degree conferred
2. Your UAlbany diploma will be mailed to you by the Registrar's Office sometime at the end of December/early January. It will be sent to your "degree" address if you have one listed in MyUAlbany. If you have no degree address listed it will be sent to your permanent address.
3. The Commencement ceremony is in May. You'll receive an invitation in March/April. Your family does not need an invitation letter to apply for a visitor visa, but we have other resources to help you help them on our website.
4. Your I-20 end date will be shortened to December 12, 2023. You have 60 days from that date to either: depart the U.S.; apply for OPT; obtain a new I-20 for a new full-time degree program at
UAlbany or another U.S. school; or apply for a change of status if eligible. Tell us what your plans are by submitting the Departure EForm.

5. If you registered for the International Celebration we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, December 5th at 5pm in the Campus Center Ballroom.

6. Finally, take a moment to celebrate all you've accomplished! Congratulations!

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**ETAP Graduate Courses - helpful for second language learners**  
(Winter + Spring 24)

**ETAP 500 Academic Writing in English as a Second Language (3)- Spring 2024**

**Monday, 04:30PM-07:20PM Kecskes, Istvan, Zhao Yingru**

Blended/Hybrid - Synchronous: Online course activity replaces from 30 - 79% of required face-to-face class sessions and class "seat-time" is reduced commensurately. Synchronous: describes forms of education, instruction, and learning that occur at the same time, but not in the same place. NO permission is required. In-person meetings only for those who do not take the course fully online:

March 11, 18, 25, April 8, 15, 22, 29

This course is designed mainly for international graduate students, but any graduate student can take it if they need improvement in academic writing. The goal of the course is to enhance students' knowledge of English writing conventions and improve their writing skills by exploring the processes of writing; comprehending, analyzing, and evaluating college-level texts; inventing, drafting, and revising; and seeking, providing, and responding to constructive feedback. Students are also introduced to the methods of doing research and citing sources. Through classroom discussions based on assigned readings, in-class activities, writing assignments, peer reviews and reflection papers, students are expected to gain confidence in writing, revising and providing feedback to others' writing.

Please contact: ikecskes@albany.edu or yzhao29@albany.edu

**ETAP 536 Second Language Learning- Spring 2024**

**Tuesday 04:30PM-07:20PM Kecskes, Istvan**

Blended/Hybrid - Synchronous: Online course activity replaces from 30 - 79% of required face-to-face class sessions and class "seat-time" is reduced commensurately. Synchronous: describes forms of education, instruction, and learning that occur at the same time, but not in the same place. If you want to take the course fully online, sign up for that option. If you want to take it hybrid, use that option. NO permission is required.
The goal of the course is to review theories of language acquisition, and cognitive, psycholinguistic, and sociolinguistic aspects of second language learning. Classroom discussion and activities will focus on different aspects of language learning processes and language use. Special attempt will be made to gap theory and practice, i.e., demonstrate how theory can explain classroom practice, and how language learning activities can generate questions for SLA researchers.

Contact: Istvan Kecskes, Distinguished Professor at ickeskes@albany.edu

ETAP 652F Teaching World Languages in the Secondary School – Winter 2024

Time: Monday, December 18, 2023, to Friday, January 12, 2024

Location: Asynchronous online via Brightspace (3 credits)

Whether you're a seasoned teacher looking to enhance your expertise or a graduate student (master's or doctoral students) eager to enter the world of teaching, this course offers the perfect platform to join us on a transformative educational journey where you'll become a proficient, culturally sensitive educator and a global citizen. Embrace the world of languages, and together, we'll shape the future of secondary education. Enroll today and embark on an adventure that will leave a lasting imprint on your students' lives and your own!

The primary emphasis lies on the contemporary research, theoretical frameworks, and practical applications in the field of global language training specifically tailored for secondary students and higher. The course is specifically tailored for both novice and experienced educators in the classroom setting. Its primary objective is to encourage exploration and investigation of significant current topics related to the instruction of global languages. These topics include the language developmental requirements of students, the establishment of standards and evaluations in lesson planning, as well as teaching each language skill and assessment, strategies for fostering active and analytical receptive and productive skills, as well as the influence of culture in language education and cognition.

Class is open for registration via MyUAlbany Academics platform starting on October 12, 2023

Please email Dr. Mary Dinh for any inquiries or questions about the coursework

Time: Monday, December 18, 2023, to Friday, January 12, 2024

Location: Asynchronous online via Brightspace
Other Announcements/Upcoming Events

**StudyNY Photo Contest**

The 9th Annual Study New York Photo and Video Contest is underway. Take a picture or short video, choosing from 3 photo categories and 1 video category, and enter for a chance to be one of the 4 winners of a $100 Amazon Gift Card and a chance to network with officials from NYC consulates and with educators from around the state at our annual reception as we present the winners with their awards!

Photo and Video Submissions are due by March 1, 2024. Go to www.studynewyork.us/photocontest for full details and to enter. Submit your photo or video entry (subject line: "Photo & Video Contest", with your name, your school, and the contest category).

**Beware of Scams!**

The holiday season also unfortunately sometimes means a rise in reported scams and frauds. Be vigilant! Scams can take many forms, from unsolicited employment offers, fake checks, threatening phone calls, false promises of exchange of gift cards for cash, etc... Protect yourself this holiday season by clicking "Read More" and reviewing how to detect a scam.

Unsubscribe

1400 Washington Avenue SL G-40 Albany NY 12222

ISSS@albany.edu
https://www.albany.edu/isss
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