



Introduction to International Student Advising

Beth Isensee and Betsy Madden

ISSS

International
Student & Scholar
Services

How do international students bring value to our University community?





ISSS

Part One @ 1:00 pm

International Students at U
ISSS and our services
Arrival Communications and Processes

BREAK and ISSS Tour @ 1:45 pm

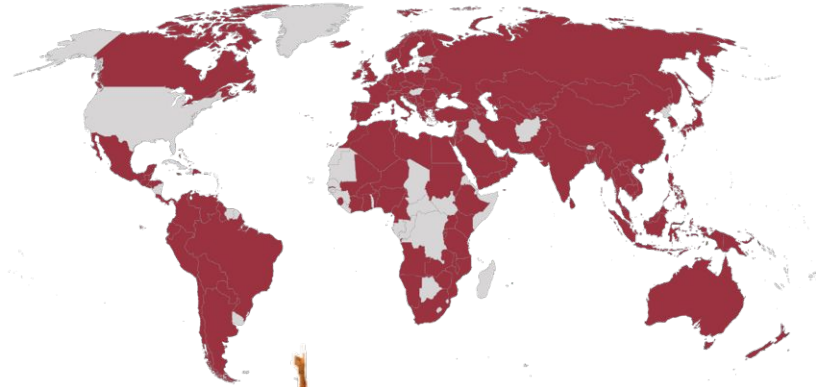
Part Two @ 2:15 pm

Decoding the Adviser Role in Immigration
Maintaining Legal Status

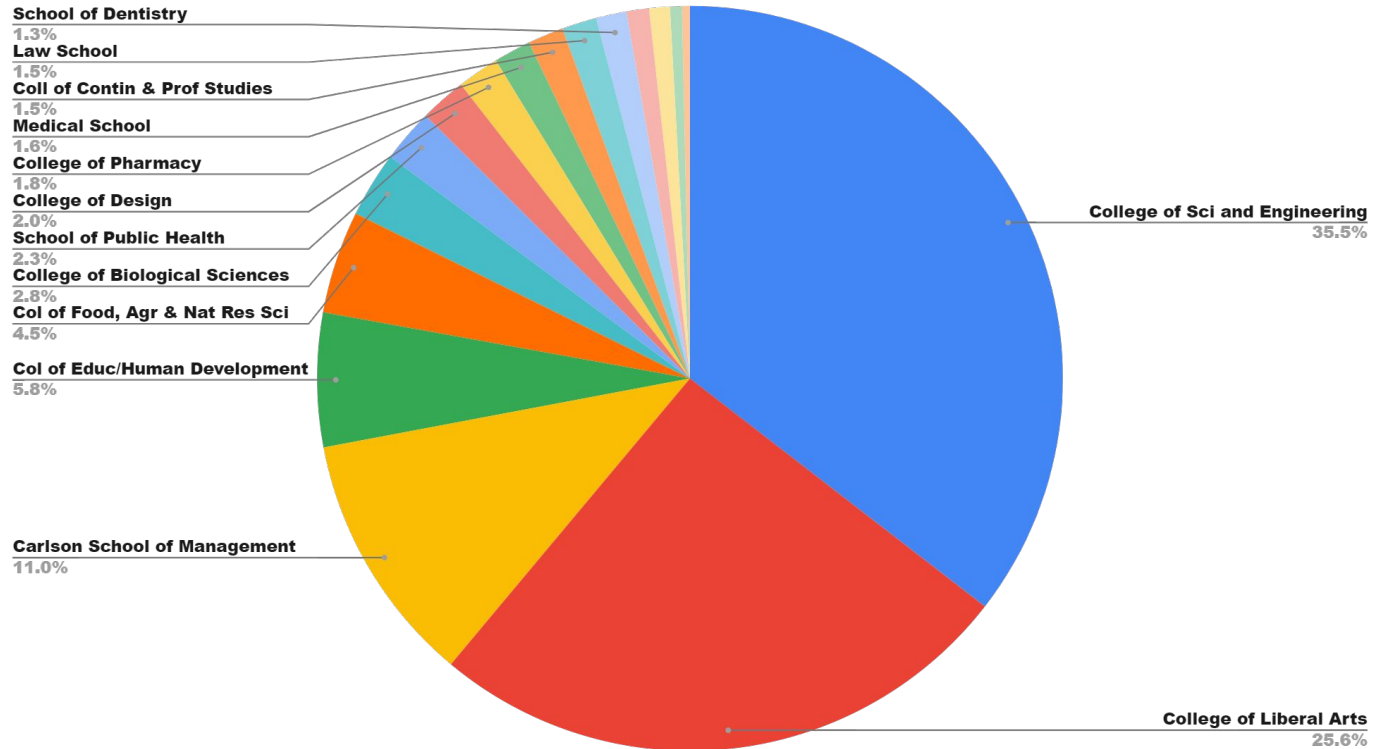
International Students Today at the University of Minnesota

Who is an “international?”
At ISSS, this is defined as an
individual who is a
non-immigrant visa holder.

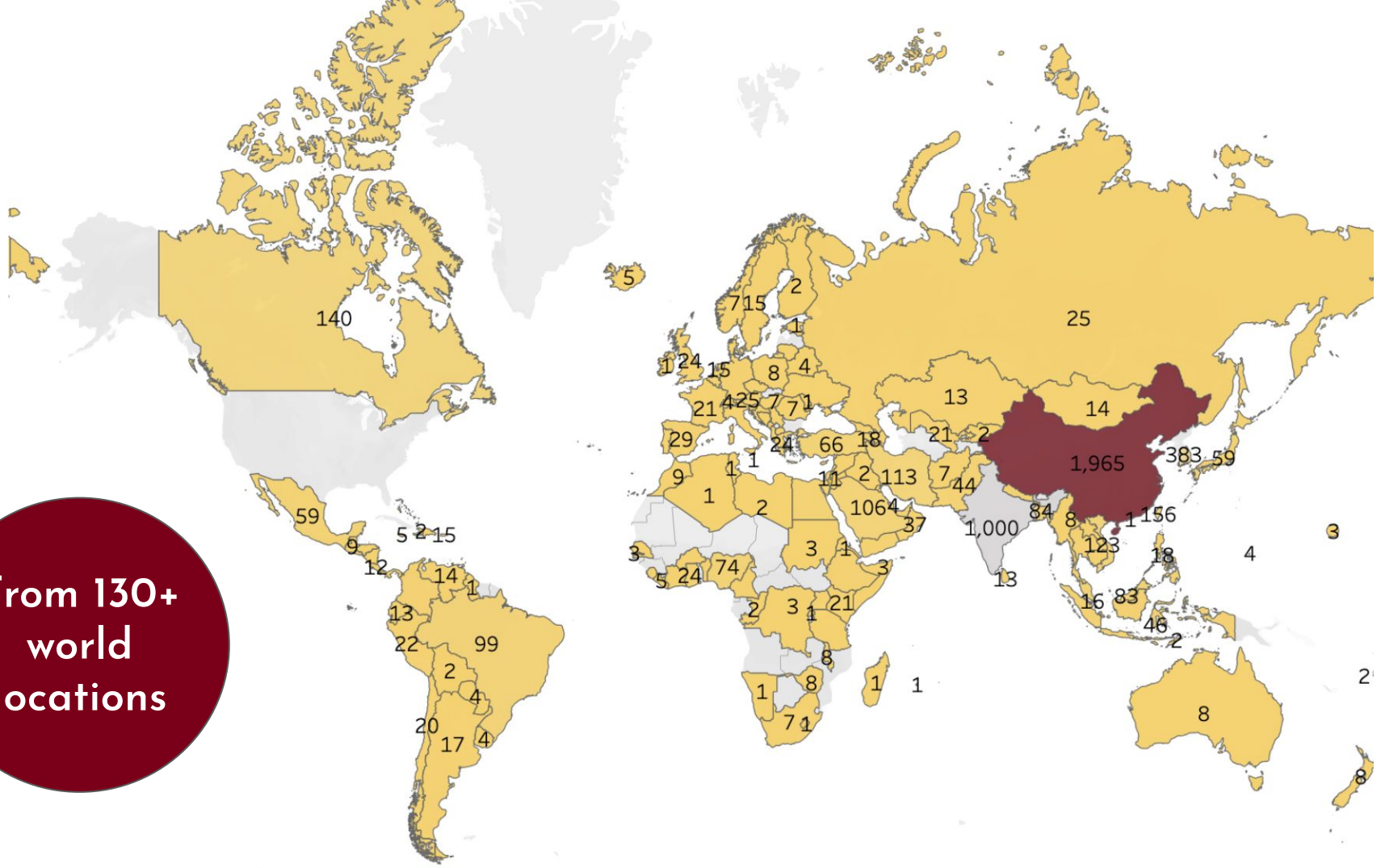
5,231 International Students
800+ International Scholars



All International Student Enrollment by Colleges



**From 130+
world
locations**



Including:

Afghanistan	Cambodia	Eritrea	India
Albania	Cameroon	Estonia	Indonesia
Algeria	Canada	Ethiopia	Iran, Islamic Republic of
American Samoa	Chile	Fiji	Iraq
Andorra	China	Finland	Ireland
Argentina	Colombia	France	Israel
Armenia	Congo	Gambia	Italy
Australia	Congo, The Democratic	Georgia	Jamaica
Austria	Republic of the	Germany	Japan
Azerbaijan	Costa Rica	Ghana	Jordan
Bahamas	Cote d'Ivoire	Greece	Kazakhstan
Bahrain	Croatia	Grenada	Kenya
Bangladesh	Cyprus	Guam	Korea, Republic of
Belarus	Czech Republic	Guatemala	Kuwait
Belgium	Denmark	Guyana	Kyrgyzstan
Benin	Dominican Republic	Haiti	Lao People's
Bolivia	East Timor	Honduras	Democratic Republic
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ecuador	Hong Kong	Lebanon
Brazil	Egypt	Hungary	Lesotho
Burkina Faso	El Salvador	Iceland	Liberia

Including:

Lithuania
Macao
Macedonia
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia
Malta
Mauritius
Mexico
Moldova, Republic of
Mongolia
Montenegro
Morocco
Myanmar
Namibia
Nepal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Nigeria

Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Palestinian Territory
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Puerto Rico
Qatar
Romania
Russian Federation
Rwanda
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Serbia
Sierra Leone
Singapore

Slovenia
Somalia
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Sweden
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Taiwan
Tanzania, United
Republic of
Thailand
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Uganda
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom

United States Minor
Outlying Islands
Uruguay
Uzbekistan
Venezuela
Vietnam
Yemen
Zimbabwe

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS at the University of Minnesota - Fall 2023



6% of the
undergraduate
population

1,800 UG
International
Students

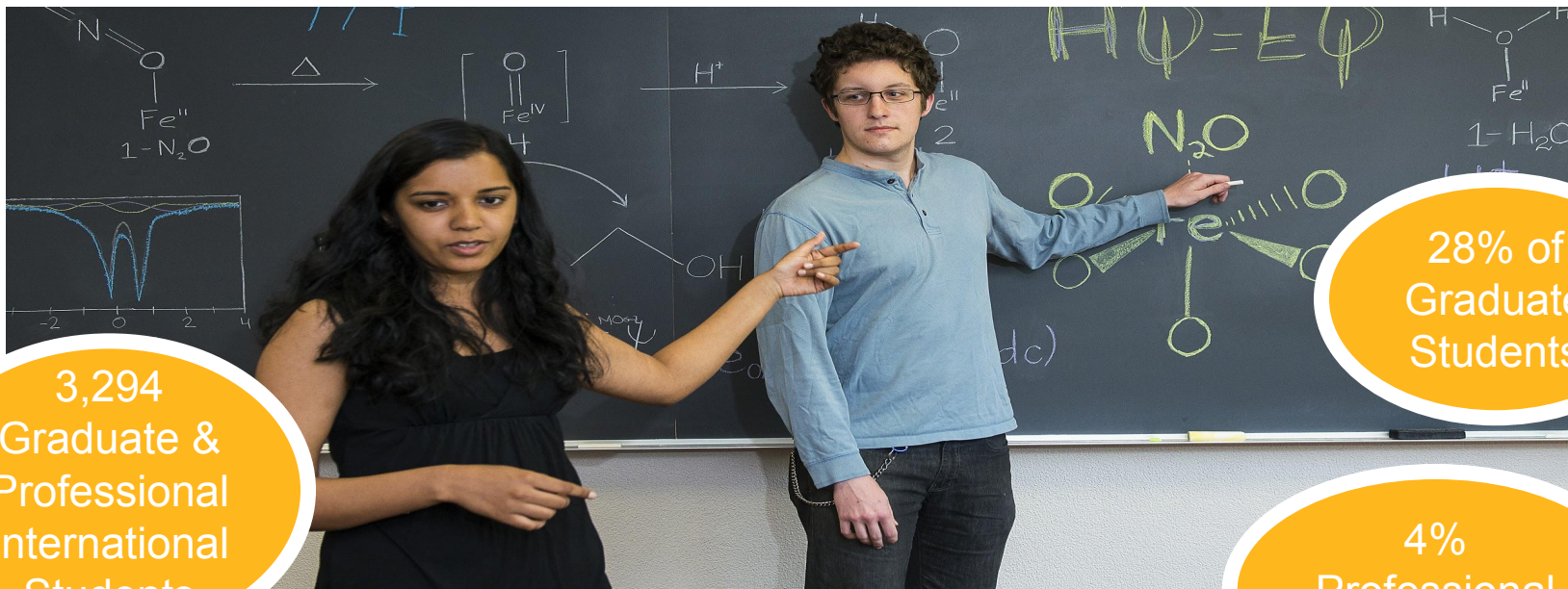
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GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL DEGREE STUDENTS at the University of Minnesota - Fall 2023



3,294
Graduate &
Professional
International
Students

28% of
Graduate
Students

4%
Professional
Students

NON-DEGREE STUDENTS at the University of Minnesota - Fall 2023



Over 137
exchange and
non-degree
seeking

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Who is ISSS?



Our Vision:

An inclusive and engaged international learning community

ISSS SERVICES

For Students & Scholars

- Academic and Career Support
- Immigration Advising and Counseling
- International Student Funding
- Tax Return Orientation
- Sponsored Student Agreements and Support

For UMN Community

- International Student Recruitment
- Employment-Based Visa Support
- Research on the International Student Experience

issss.umn.edu



Students

Scholars

Departments

News

Events

Resources

Academic Advisors ▾

Hosting Exchange Visitors ▾

Employment-Based Visas

Training

Other Resources

[Home](#) > [Departments](#) > [Academic Advisors](#)

Information for
Academic Advisors



ISSSS

International
Student & Scholar
Services



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Student Engagement

New Student Programs

- International Student Ambassadors
- Global Gopher Experience Events
- Identity Based Caucus Groups
- International Buddy Program*

Cultural and Social Programs

- Cross-Cultural Discussion Groups*
- Small World Coffee Hour*

Leadership and Professional Development Programs

- International Student Advisory Board
- Culture Corps Internships
- Graduate Student Internships and Counseling Practicum*

** Programs For International and Domestic Students*



New Student Transition Support



ISSS

Welcoming and engaging new international students

ISSS New Student Website

Student facing [new international student website](#)

ISSS UMN Department Website

[Undergraduate Advisor and Staff Guide](#)

- [Overview](#) of the New UG International Student Transition
 - including “Timeline and Checklist”

[Graduate & Professional Degree Advisor and Staff Guide](#)

- [Overview](#) of the New Graduate & Professional International Student Transition
 - including “Timeline and Checklist”

Supporting New International Students

2023 Impact Report

International Student and Scholar Services welcomed 1,497 new international students to campus in Fall 2023, including our largest-ever class of international freshmen (466). We thank our 50+ partners across campus for helping create an inclusive and welcoming environment for all.



Immigration Documents

699 undergraduate I-20s
1,117 graduate student I-20s



ISSS Check-Ins

1,500+ students completed their ISSS Check-In



International Student Preparation Course

1,600+ students completed the pre-arrival course



Global Gopher Experiences

3,500 attendees
39 virtual and in-person events to prepare international students for life at UMN



Global Gopher Caucuses

6 groups for specific identities:

- LGBTQIA+
- Muslim
- Black-identifying
- Latino/a/e/x
- Sponsored students
- Student parents

171 students participated



Responsive to Student Needs

1,760 new student emails answered from April 1–September 5



Clear Communication

Total of 12 emails, targeted by student type, sent to all new international students from May to August
High student engagement with over 80% open rates



Student Leaders

19 student leaders helped welcome new international students



Social Media

250 new Instagram followers over the summer
Reached 2,240 Instagram users

[NST Impact Report Link](#)

Office of Undergraduate Education
[Advising International Students](#)



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Driven to Discover™

One Stop MyU : For Students, F

Undergraduate Advising

Training, Resources, and Tools for Advisors at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities

Home

Training & Development ▾

Advising for... ▾

Advisor Tools

Campus Resources



» [ADVISING FOR...](#) » [UNIQUE POPULATIONS](#) » INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International Students

A student who is in the U.S. on a non-immigrant visa whose primary purpose is to study.



Tips for Advising this Population

[Visit Website](#)

Further Resources

Common Requests from International Students to Their Academic

- [Reduced Course Load](#)

GRADUATE SCHOOL

APPLY

REQUEST INFORMATION

About

Academic & Career Support

Admissions

Graduate Programs

Funding

Diversity

News & E

[Graduate School](#) > [Faculty & Staff Toolkit](#) > [Advising and Mentoring International Graduate Students](#)

Advising and Mentoring International Graduate Students

About	▼
Academic & Career Support	▼
Admissions	▼
Graduate Programs	▼
Funding	▼
Diversity	▼
News & Events	▼



Advising and Mentoring International Graduate Students (Full ...

Wat

ADVISING & MENTORING

international

How can you learn and engage?

- **Subscribe to newsletters:**

- [ISSS Weekly Update](#) or new international student communications
- Karin Fischer's [Latitudes blog](#)

- **Participate in workshops:**

- [Introduction to International Student Advising](#)
- [Intl Student Academic Integration](#) Workshops
- [Addressing Xenophobia & Minoritization](#) Workshop
- [Inviting and Hosting](#) International Scholars, Employees, and Students

- **Learn from International student perspectives:**

- Request college specific data or host a listening sessions
- Have students in leadership positions or employed in your college/unit!
- OSA and ISSS [International Student Advisory Board](#)
- Attend a [Small World Coffee Hour](#)



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Part Two @ 2:15 pm

Decoding the Adviser Role in Immigration
Maintaining Legal Status



Betsy Madden
Head of the F-1 Program
ISSS

Decoding Academic Adviser Role in Immigration



- Collaborative relationship
- Rely on academic adviser to verify academic information

Visa

F-1

J-1

H1B

Description

Student visa—most common

Exchange Visitor:
Student, Scholar, Intern.
Sponsored/exchange
students (funded by
gov't, organization, or
non personal funding).

Employment based
status

Document

I-20

DS-2019

Employment

On campus,
Curricular Practical
Training (CPT),
Optional Practical Training
(OPT)

On campus,
Academic Training

Temporary work in
specialty occupation,
initiated by employer.



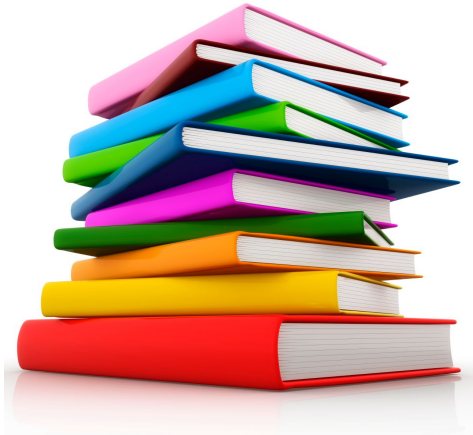
When advising international students keep in mind

- Sound academic advice can conflict with US immigration regulations
- Maintaining legal status can be confusing
 - Full time enrollment is a basic requirement. Less than full time must be approved by ISSS first.
 - GRAD 999
 - Off campus work, even if a program requirement, also must be approved by ISSS first.

Consultation with ISSS advisers is recommended

Full Course Load

- Purpose of the F-1 visa is to study in the U.S. full time
- Full course load:
 - 12 credits for undergraduate students
 - 6 credits for graduate students
 - Professional programs vary
- Only 3 credits online/remote coursework per semester are allowed toward full time requirement
- Audit/incompletes do not count toward full time requirement
- **All international students must have ISSS approval to drop below full time enrollment**
- Limited reasons for [Reduced Course Load \(RCL\)](#)
 - Academic, Medical, Disability



Employment

On-campus

- 20 hours/week during semester
- More than 20 hours/week:
 - summer
 - winter and spring breaks
- Doesn't have to be related to a major
- How does a student know the job is **on campus**?
 - <https://hr.umn.edu/Jobs/Find-Job>
 - paycheck is issued by **University of Minnesota, Twin Cities**



Employment

Off-campus

- Requires authorization before starting to work
- Eligible after enrolled for one academic year in U.S. college or university
- F-1: Practical Training (field specific)
 - Curricular (CPT)—while studying; need a job offer
 - Optional (OPT)—after graduation; no need for a job offer
- J-1: Academic Training (field specific)
 - Letter by department, Job offer letter, No need to register for a course, Sponsor Approval

[ISSS F-1 Work Authorization info for Academic Advisors](#)



When to Refer students to ISSS

- Concerned about their mental health
- Under Full-time Enrollment
- Travel outside U.S.
- Employment
- Completing program



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Tour of ISSS

How to Contact and Refer to ISSS

- ISSS Hours
- Areas of office
- Student contact us (see notes for current schedule)
 - Email
 - Call
 - Virtual Appointment (schedule through Aplus)
 - Virtual Drop-in
 - No assigned adviser unless longer term assistance is needed
- Staff Connect us via:
 - College Liaisons
 - Use of APlus
 - In a emergency
- Tips for creating a warm referral!

Keeping students/umn staff informed

- Weekly Newsletter Updates
- Instagram account