



Canadian Counseling:

Can you explain semester and quarter units for the Canadian student?

College courses are assigned a value in what are called “credits” or “units.” The number of units assigned to a course corresponds to the number of hours that a student will attend class for that course. For example, a course that consists of three class sessions per week, and where each class session lasts 1 hour, will be assigned a value of three units.

Most colleges and universities follow either a quarter-based calendar system or a semester-based calendar system. In a quarter system, the academic year is divided into three sessions called quarters. Each quarter lasts approximately 12 weeks. There is usually an additional quarter in the summer, where registration is optional. In a semester system, the academic year is divided into two sessions called semesters. Each semester lasts 16 weeks.

In summary, a semester is equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ year. If it meets 3 hours/week, it will be considered a semester course worth 3 semester units. If a student gets an “A” in the course (A’s are worth 4 grade points, then they will earn “12 units of A” (3 semester units x 4 grade points for the A).

How does the Canadian percentage grading system relate to the U.S. system of letter grading system?

Here’s a good article to read about this topic: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academic_grading_in_North_America

- **Level 4** = A or excellent (exceeds provincial standard, 80–100%)
- **Level 3** = B or good (meets provincial standard, 70–79%)
- **Level 2** = C or average (approaches provincial standard, 60–69%)
- **Level 1** = D or passing (well below provincial standard, 50–59%)
- **Level R** = F or failing (remedial action necessary, 0–49%)

Since I am not a U.S. citizen, is there anything I need to know with regards to obtaining my degree in the U.S.?

Foreign students do not qualify for U.S. federal financial aid programs. As a condition for matriculation, the student must show proof of earmarked educational funds sufficient to cover the costs of a four year professional graduate school education. Proof of these funds can be in the form of a line of credit or bank records.

To matriculate, a foreign student will require an F1 Student Visa that may be secured with assistance from MBKU’s Office of Student Affairs.

Students with the F1 Student Visa are allowed to extend this Visa for only 12 months following the date of commencement for the sole purpose of furthering one’s optometric education.

Can I work on Campus?

Yes, but not in a Federal Work Study position. The job must be a College Work Study position.

Will I need to obtain any U.S. documents?

Yes. A U.S. Social Security Card and a California Driver's License or ID card. A Social Security Card is required for Campus employment and by many of our fourth year outreach sites. The Driver's License is required if you are bringing a vehicle. The California ID card is recommended if you are not bringing a vehicle.

What do I need to know about the student Visa?

Visit <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/>

For an *especially* helpful and detailed article for Canadian students as to what will be required of them when making the transition into this country as a student, read this article written by one of SCCO's Peer Advisers as she talks about her firsthand experience of making the transition herself: <https://optometryadmissions.com/2017/07/19/the-canadian-students-guide-to-moving-to-california/>

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