Aid to a Better Transition: English 152 Class

English 152 is an advanced writing class for beginning international students who need to improve their writing skills. Every semester, incoming international students take an English placement test to determine whether enrollment in the class is needed. Approximately 30% of incoming international students take this transitional class.

Come learn more about this amazing academic aid from an interview with Dr. Sally Cook, the current professor of English 152.

Q: What are the goals of the English 152 class? A: The main focus of the class is writing for academic purposes, however, students’ reading and speaking skills are also expected to improve. This class is a transition to American college life, specifically here at Truman. Through encouragement of active class participation, I seek to help my students learn the way college classes work as well as how to use the academic services the university offers, such as the library and the writing center. These goals are accomplished through writing research papers, resumes and business letters; doing formal and informal presentations; library sessions; and writing center trips.

Q: Besides improving their English skills, do you also seek to incorporate other positive elements into the class? A: Certainly. I help my students learn English in an American context by teaching different cultural traditions, including idioms. I encourage cultural diversity in the class by making the students write out their thoughts and solutions to certain problems and phenomena. As their cultural backgrounds are implicitly incorporated into their writings, the sharing of these writings in class enhances cultural understanding.

Q: In your teaching, how do you coordinate the different knowledge levels and learning patterns among international students? A: I try to individualize each student’s learning through focusing on their writing processes. All papers have rough drafts and final drafts. Because it is a small class, I have the opportunity to point out to each student in their rough drafts what are the specific places that he or she needs to improve on and how those can be accomplished.

Exciting Things Going on at Truman

- The Truman Chemistry program recently tied for 24th place nationally based on the number of American Chemical Society (ACS)-accredited degrees awarded in the 2007-2008 time frame. This exceeds all but one of the Ivy League schools.

- Internationally-renowned percussion artist, Benjamin Toth recently visited Truman for a series of master classes, a concert and applied lessons.

- On April 13, Truman will conduct its 23rd annual Student Research Conference, which will feature a broad spectrum of presentations by students from all academic disciplines.

- Truman’s Health Science Case Study entered the national AAHE Case Study Competition at the AAFPERD national convention in Indianapolis, Ind., March 19, and won second place.

International Student Profile

Rijosh Shrestha is a sophomore computer science major from Nepal. Let’s hear what he says about Truman!

What attracted you to Truman State University? Academic reputation, affordability, great scholarship opportunity, and welcoming environment.

What is your favorite thing about Kirksville? Its environment and community. People here are very welcoming. There’s also so much to do on and off campus.

How does Truman support international students? The Orientation Week is great! All international students are brought together by the staff to help adapt to Truman life. The International Student Affairs Office is there to help at any time anything comes up.

How is Truman preparing you for the future? The computer science program at Truman is very challenging. It also provides me with hands-on experience.

International Student Affairs Office
100 E. Normal KB 120
Kirksville, MO 63501
U.S.A.
Tel: 660-785-4215
http://isao.truman.edu
intl admit@truman.edu