

Wednesday, July 29th

Packing Up Pre-Arrival Session

A Wolfpack Introduction to US Higher Education



Session Logistics



Please introduce yourself in the chat! This has helped past groups make connections with other new students.



You can submit your questions through the Q&A (Question and Answer) feature and we will answer as many as we can during the Q&A portion of today's session.



You can use the thumbs up feature to upvote questions your peers have asked. This will make it easier for panelists to see and more likely that you will hear a response.



A recording of this session will be posted on our Packing Up webpage.

Our Panelists

Office of International Services

Tony Shurer, Academic Coordinator for International Student Support
Lauren Ball, Associate Director

A Wolfpack Introduction to Higher Education in the United States

Exploration, Curiosity, Initiative, Reflection

Tony Shurer

Academic Coordinator, International Student Support

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Tony Shurer

Academic Coordinator, International Student Support

- Promote **student well-being** and student success
- To help students **navigate** the educational process and **academic culture**
- To **connect students** with appropriate campus and community resources

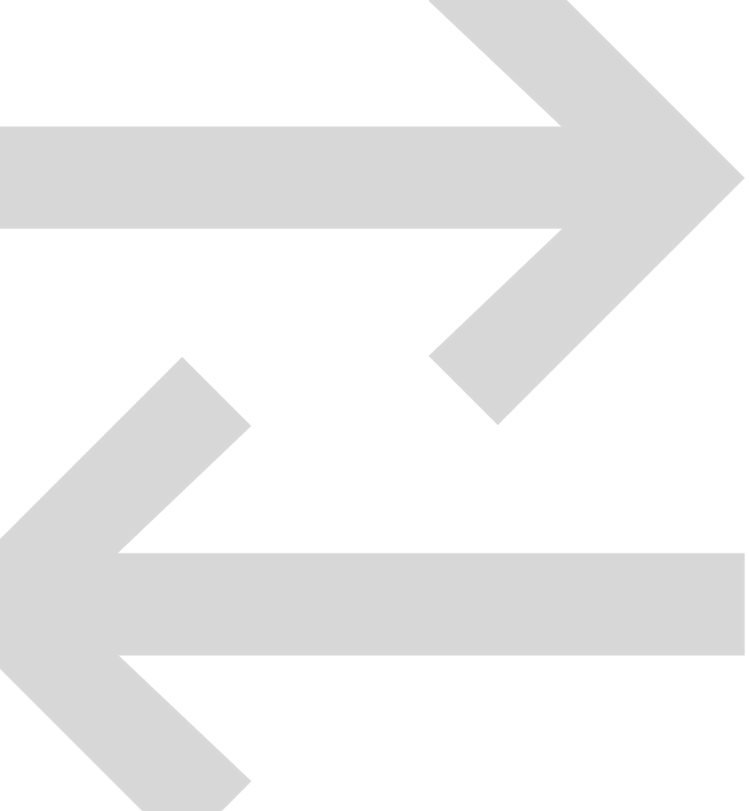




Technology Tower

- **Curiosity**
What is this picture?
- **Exploration**
What else is around this?
- **Initiative**
Let's go find it!
- **Reflection**
I wonder if this is a good place to meet up?

Shift in Mindset: From Passive to Active



Higher education in the United States is not passive. You cannot be a spectator and just watch it happen.

Shift from a passive framework to one of action.

Arriving with Intent

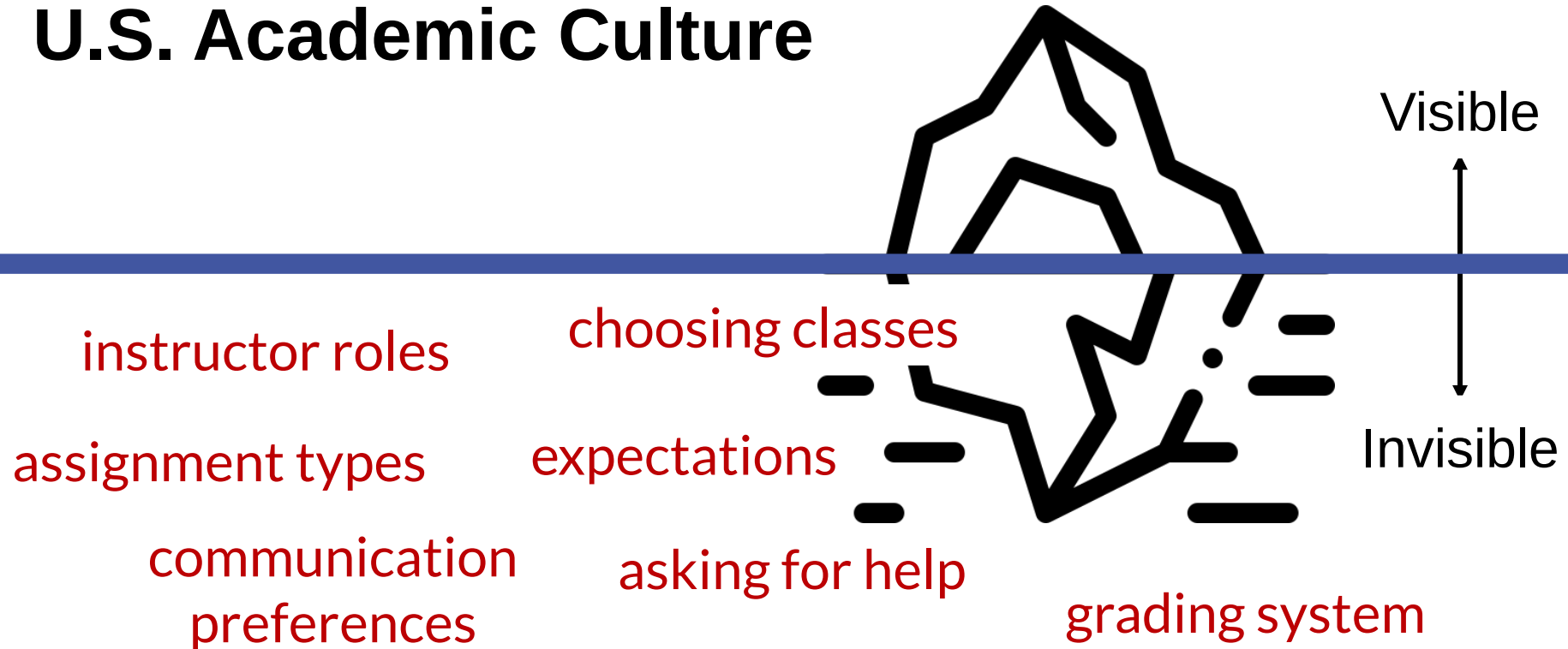


Take Action!

- ☐ Arrive with a strategy
- ☐ Take ownership of your new environment
- ☐ Establish your foundation at NC State



The Iceberg: U.S. Academic Culture



Learning about U.S. Academic Culture



Ask questions about learning.

- ☐ What does great class participation look like in your course?
- ☐ How can I best utilize your office hours this semester?
- ☐ What is a common mistake first-year students make on this paper/assignment?

Learning about U.S. Academic Culture



The course syllabus is a map.

☐ Find the syllabus. Save a copy. Print it. Read it!



Find cultural “navigators.”

☐ Seek guidance from others who have already experienced the iceberg of academic culture.

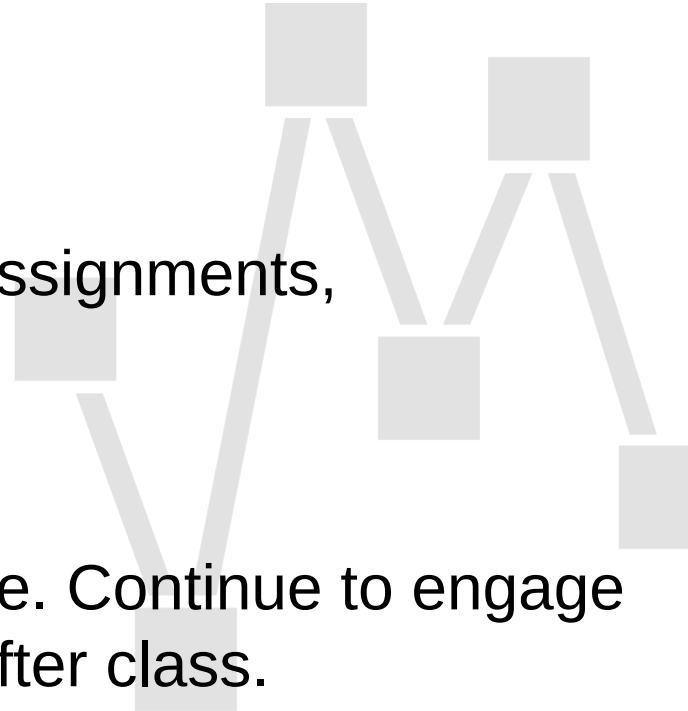
Academic Culture: Continuous Engagement

Continuous Evaluation

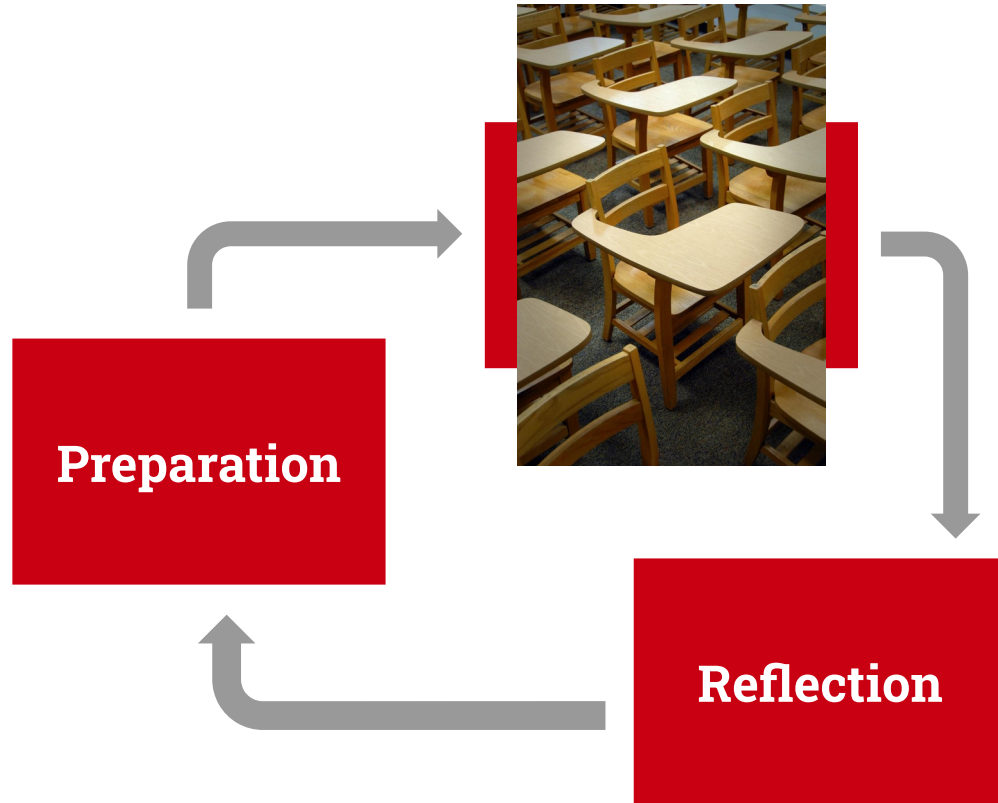
Frequent grades via quizzes, exams, assignments, projects, papers, attendance, etc.

Continuous Learning

Cycle of learning from each experience. Continue to engage with the material before, during, and after class.



Continuous Learning



Notes Template

[illegible]

Notes
Q&A
Definitions
Examples
Context
Applications
etc.

Summary

In your own words

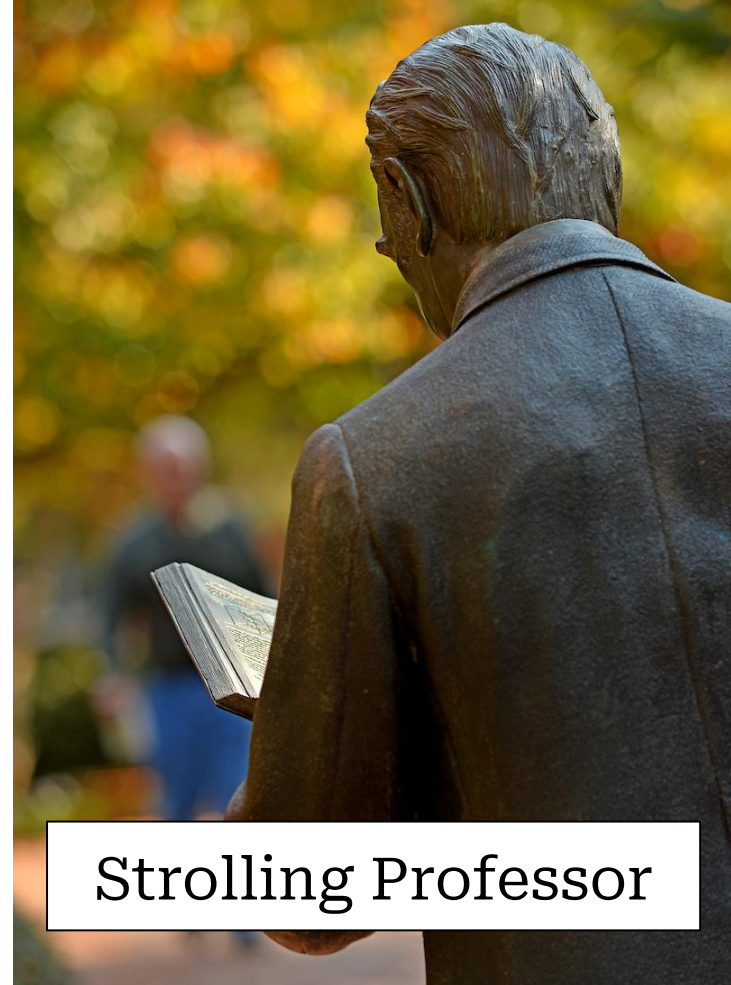
After Class-Reflect.
How well do I understand?

Professors as Partners



“So if you want to ask [your professor] a question, she will answer it, but she will first say, Tell me what you think.”

Sana, an undergraduate student from Bangladesh
(as cited in Glass et al. 2015)



Strolling Professor

References

Glass, C. R., Kociolek, E., Wongtrirat, R., Lynch, R. J., & Cong, S. (2015). Uneven experiences: The impact of student-faculty interactions on international students' sense of belonging. *Journal of International Students*, 5(4), 353–367. <https://doi.org/10.32674/jis.v5i4.400>

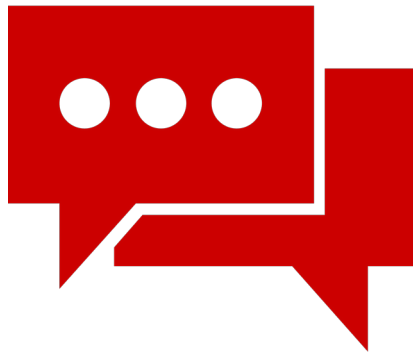
Google. (2026). Gemini (July 28 version) [Large language model]. <https://gemini.google.com>

Krsmanovic, M. (2022). Encountering American higher education: First-year academic transition of international undergraduate students in the United States. *Journal of Global Education and Research*, 6(2), 148–165. <https://doi.org/10.5038/2577-509X.6.2.1164>

Sharma, R. (2026). Initial arrival and transitional experiences of international students at a U.S. university. *Journal of International Students*, 16(10), 1–24. <https://doi.org/10.32674/dsgfxj75>

Generative AI (Google Gemini, July 28, 2026 version) was used to assist in synthesizing literature, structuring the presentation outline, and framing key concepts for international student transitions to higher education in the U.S.

Question and Answer



OIS Instagram



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Upcoming Important Dates



On-Campus Housing Move-in for Fall 2026

August 11, 2026

Fall 2026 International Student Orientation

August 12, 2026

First Day of Classes Fall 2026

August 17, 2026

Tuition and Fee Payment Deadline

August 21, 2026

Student Blue Waive/Enrollment Deadline

September 10, 2026

Get Connected



Packing Up Pre-Arrival Series

Our next session will be Tuesday, August 4th from 8:30am to 9:30am Eastern Time. We will host a general Question and Answer session and also give a preview of International Orientation scheduled for August 12th.

Registration will be live in 1 hour.
go.ncsu.edu/packing-up-registration

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