

# Center for International and Continuing Education

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The Center for International and Continuing Education coordinates programs and services that extend the university to our local and global communities. The center serves as a liaison between the university's academic programs and the community at large through continuing education; provides intensive English language instruction to international students; administers the university's extensive study-abroad programs; and coordinates international admissions and student services for international students and scholars.

The center is operationally divided into Continuing Education and Distributed Learning; the English Language Institute; International Programs; and International Student and Scholar Services.

## Continuing Education and Distributed Learning

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Continuing Education and Distributed Learning (CEDL) functions to complement The University of Southern Mississippi's overall mission of teaching, research, and service. By serving as liaison between the university and the community at large, CEDL extends access to the educational programs of the institution through multiple delivery systems to individuals at various stages of their lives and careers for intellectual, professional, social, and cultural advancement.

CEDL acts in partnership with the academic colleges to link faculty expertise and resources with the needs of the university's clients and constituencies. In this role, CEDL serves as an agent for opportunity, innovation, and quality.

Continuing Education and Distributed Learning accomplishes its mission by distributing educational opportunities in settings and formats that broaden the university's traditional modes of delivery.

**Credit and Distributed Learning:** The office of Credit Programming and Distributed Learning has the responsibility of coordinating and administering all credit, intensive, weekend, intersession, and extension courses. Included are courses available on the Internet and select courses using compressed interactive video. Courses offered through this office are the result of collaborative relationships with the university's academic departments. In addition, academic courses may be arranged in a format and location to meet the specific needs of governmental, business, industrial, and educational groups.

Through **Independent (correspondence) Study**, a student may earn up to 32 hours of undergraduate university credit or one complete unit of **high school credit**. Independent study allows the student to earn credit through the advantages of home study. These courses are particularly suited to the needs of the student who is unable to attend the university on a regular schedule.

**Marketing and Professional Development:** The office of Marketing and Professional Development is responsible for a diversity of programming that serves to address the educational needs of the community. Through market research and awareness efforts, this office seeks to

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identify the educational needs of professionals, paraprofessionals, and those making career changes. This office coordinates and administers the logistical details for conferences, institutes, workshops, and training programs, whether on-site or via the Internet. Additionally, this office provides convention and annual meeting coordination assistance to professional associations, fraternal organizations, and other education groups. The **Listener's License Program**, administered through this office, enables individuals to utilize university resources by observation within the academic class setting on a nonparticipating basis. This office also oversees the approval and awarding of **Continuing Education Units (CEU)** offered by the university. The CEU is a nationally recognized unit of measure for noncredit continuing education programs. It is designed to document learning experiences that are valid in their own right, but differ from experiences for which academic credits are traditionally awarded.

**Institute for Learning in Retirement.** The Institute for Learning in Retirement is an association of active women and men 50 years of age or older who seek to explore stimulating learning experiences while developing new friendships.

In this world of change and complexity, the institute brings insight and perspective to interested – and interesting – adults who wish to pursue activities of the mind in an informal and supportive environment.

The institute's program recognizes that a growing number of adults are adventuresome, active, and intellectually curious. The cornerstone is peer-learning and shared responsibility. The strength of the program is that it is self-directed and run for and by the members. It draws on members' talents and experiences as instructors, facilitators, and leaders.

## English Language Institute

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The English Language Institute (ELI) delivers intensive English instruction for international students. The program, which accommodates students from beginning to advanced language proficiency, is attended by students from every major continent.

The ELI fosters cross-cultural awareness within the university and the community by offering ELI students opportunities for interaction with native English speakers, both on and off campus.

Founded in 1947, it is among the oldest language institutes in the United States.

## International Programs

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International Programs administers a variety of programs providing Southern Miss students long-term and short-term opportunities to study abroad for academic credit. Short-term programs offering regular Southern Miss academic credit include the following:

The **British Studies Program**, a summer term in London in which Southern Miss functions as the academic and logistical linchpin for a consortium comprising The University of Memphis, Hinds Community College, Texas A&M University – Commerce, The University of Louisiana – Monroe, Southeastern Louisiana University, Mississippi College, Henderson State University, Cameron University, and the College of Charleston.

The Austrian Studies Program  
 The Australian Studies Program  
 The Canadian Forensics program  
 The Caribbean Studies Program in Jamaica  
 The Cuban Studies Program  
 The French Studies Program at The Abbey  
 The Honduran Studies Program  
 The Irish Studies Program  
 The Spanish Language Program in Puebla, Mexico  
 The Spanish Language Program in Madrid, Spain  
 The Vietnam Studies Program

Other academic study-abroad programs coordinated by this office include **The Abbey of Pontlevoy**, a semester-abroad program in France designed especially for freshman and sophomores. Southern Miss leads a consortium of 11 U.S. universities for The Abbey program.

Semester- and year-abroad exchanges:  
 Ecole Supérieure du Commerce Extérieur, France  
 Exeter University, England  
 Université de Perpignan, France  
 Keele University, Stoke-on-Trent, England  
 Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia  
 University of Alcalá de Henares, Madrid, Spain  
 University of Bonn, Germany  
 University of Victoria, Canada  
 University of Wales, Swansea  
 University of the Yucatán, Merida, Mexico  
 University of Orleans, France

A student practice teaching program in England and Germany for education majors

Foreign Language Programs Abroad:  
 Variable Locations

## International Student and Scholar Services

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International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) coordinates all facets of international admissions and student/scholar services. ISSS provides counseling on immigration regulations, personal matters, and culture shock and adjustment, as well as some academic counseling in conjunction with the various departments. The office processes all international applications, evaluates foreign academic credentials, and issues the appropriate immigration documents for the non-immigrant foreign student. Intercultural programming for international students and the community is also coordinated by ISSS.

The ISSS office disseminates Southern Miss information to foreign schools, U.S. embassies and consulates abroad, and nonprofit international organizations such as the Institute for International Education.

ISSS also provides information to, and immigration documents for, research scholars invited by various Southern Miss departments to participate in limited research opportunities.

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