

Augustana Cultural Exchange (ACE) Program International Programs Office (IPO)

Description

The Augustana Cultural Exchange (ACE) program is an exciting leadership opportunity for students interested in developing their intercultural skills and awareness and in establishing friendships with international students. The program is designed to help facilitate meaningful relationships and assist international students in the transition to the United States. The college will continue to see growth in our international student population in 2011-2012, and the ACE program will play an integral role in assuring the students' successful integration at Augustana.

Student Ambassadors in the ACE program will work in pairs. Ideally, group leaders will consist of one U.S.-Augustana student and one returning international student. The pair will co-lead a group of 5-6 international students as they adjust to life at Augustana and in the United States. Ambassadors will help lead a 4-day orientation program (September 1-4), assist their group with questions (cultural, academic and resource-oriented), attend monthly activities planned by the ACE groups, and help international students get to know people, places, customs, and procedures at Augustana. Ambassadors will also provide leadership for international programming on campus and may provide founding leadership in the formation of a broader International Club.

The IPO is seeking up to 20 motivated student-leaders to become Ambassadors in the Augustana Cultural Exchange program. Students may apply individually or in pairs. As part of the IPO's umbrella Encore Program, preference will be given to students who have studied abroad or who have significantly demonstrated experience working in an intercultural context.

Program Goals

- To ensure that each new international student has as smooth a transition as possible to life at Augustana and in the United States.
- To provide an opportunity for U.S.-Augustana students to develop friendships with international students on campus
- To ensure that new international students have at least one current U.S.-Augustana student to turn to for advice, help, and camaraderie
- To create a forum to share ideas and celebrate differences as well as similarities across cultures
- To create experienced leaders for Augustana's future International Club (?)

Why Participate?

- ACE is a venue in which to meet new students from around the world and form lasting friendships
- Develop and enhance your intercultural skills, international competency, and language ability
- Enhance your resume with an intercultural leadership position
- Free activities provided by the IPO and lots of fun!

Program Expectations

- Attend the International Student Orientation (September 1-4). You will need to be ready to start orientation on Thursday, September 1, at noon.
- Plan one event with your ACE group for all international students and ACE Ambassadors and attend one ACE event each month (more information below)
- Invite your ACE group to Augustana events with you (more information below)
- Be a good role model and ambassador for Augustana and international programming
- Attend occasional IPO meetings and provide feedback
- Have fun with your new international friends

To Apply...

- 1) Submit your application by Friday, April 1 to ben.iverson@augie.edu
- 2) Submit a short letter of recommendation from a faculty member to ben.iverson@augie.edu
- 3) Schedule an interview with IPO staff by Thursday, April 21 (before Easter break) by calling 605-274-5050

Selection of ACE Ambassadors will be made following the interviews, and a meeting for all 2011-2012 Ambassadors will be held in early May.

During orientation, each ACE group will plan an event for all international students and ACE Ambassadors. There will be one event per month of the academic year. These events can introduce international students to American customs and holidays or activities in Sioux Falls. Sample monthly event options:

- On-campus scavenger hunt
- Apple Picking
- Pumpkin Carving
- Thanksgiving Dinner
- Tubing at Great Bear
- Ice skating and hot cocoa
- Sporting event (Stampede/Pheasants/Skyforce game)
- Picnic (on campus or at Falls Park)
- Karaoke
- Dance lessons
- Go-karts/mini golf at Thunder Road
- Murder mystery dinner
- \$10 Prom
- Musicals or other theatrical productions (Orpheum or Washington Pavilion)
- Service Learning Activities (Banquet, etc.)
- Super Bowl Party
- Other???

Inviting your ACE group to join you at Augustana events is one of the best ways to help them feel like part of the Augustana community. Examples of Augustana events to attend with your ACE group:

Meeting for meals in the Commons

Activities Fair

Sporting events

Band, choir, and orchestra concerts

Theater productions

Homecoming Week events (Coronation, Viking Varieties, parade, etc.)

You also have the option of joining international students on excursions (space permitting). Potential trips for 2011-2012:

Black Hills/Mt. Rushmore (September)

Twin Cities/Mall of America (December)

Skiing (J-term Break)

Grand Canyon (Spring Break)

Omaha/Zoo and Old Market (April)

For more information, contact Ben Iverson at 605-274-5250 or ben.iverson@augie.edu.