

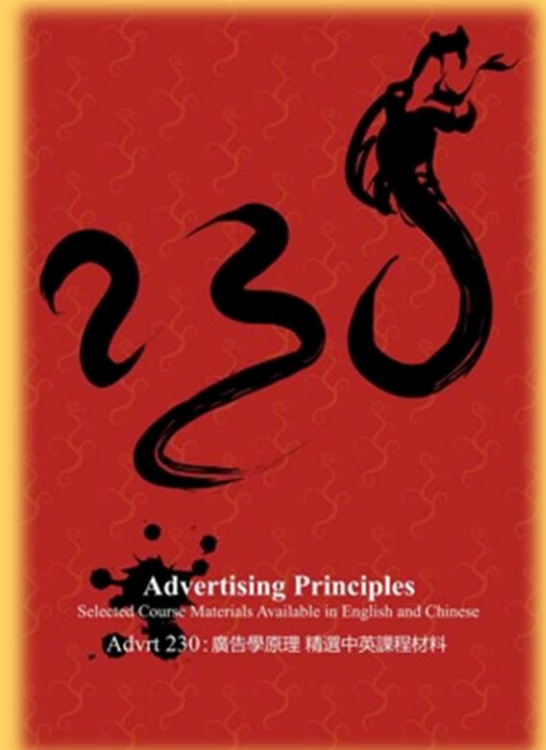
Chinese Students, American Classrooms: Lessons Learned from a Teaching and Learning Circle at Iowa State University

中国学生，美国课堂：教学相长学习交流圈

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Presentation Overview

- ISU Context
- Issues international students face
- How to help international students be successful



Top Countries for Sending Students to ISU

Fall 2012

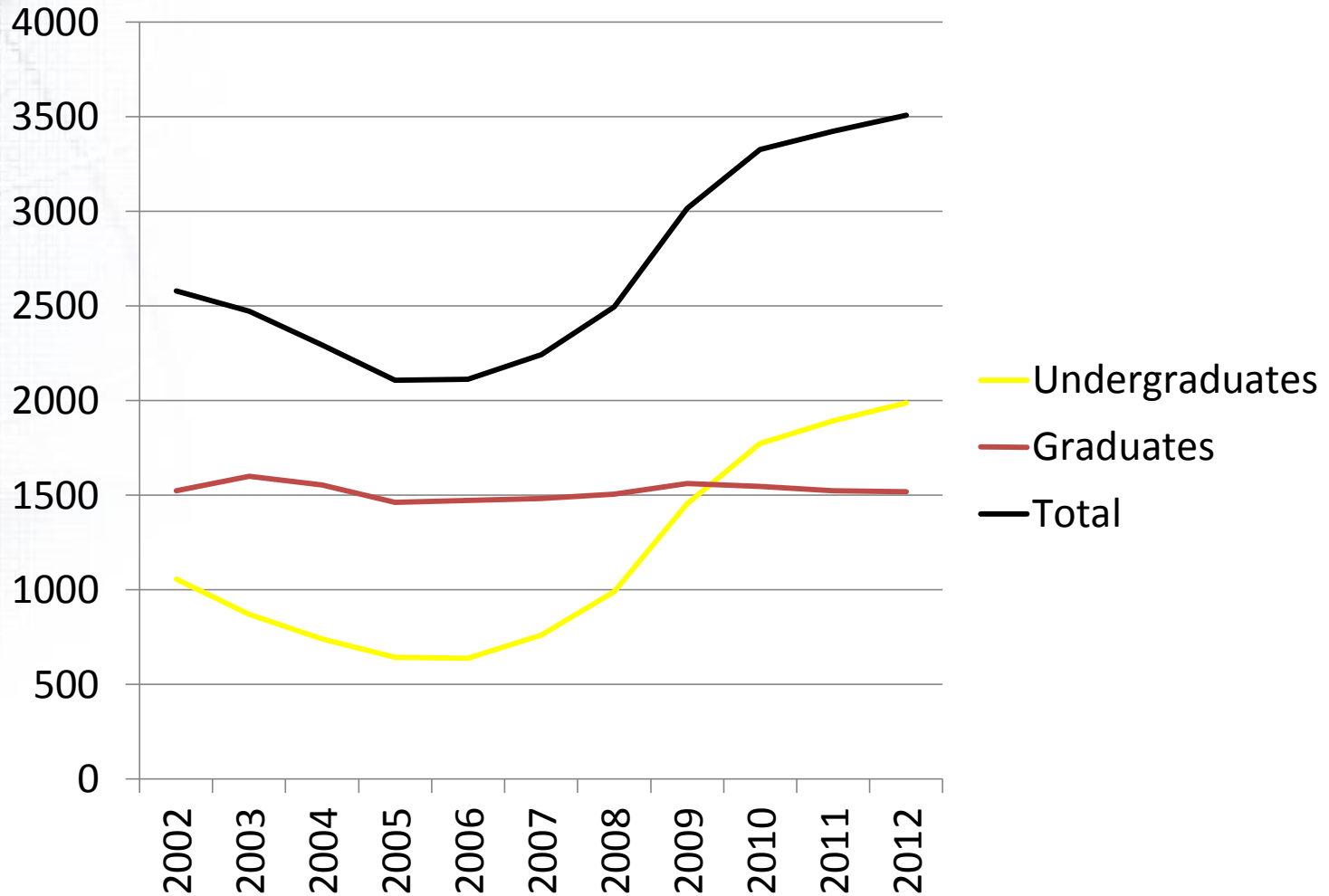
China, People's Republic of	1917
India	345
Malaysia	206
Korea, South	192
China, Taiwan	66

Fall 2011

China, People's Republic of	1849
India	362
Malaysia	206
Korea, South	192
China, Taiwan	74



Iowa State University International Enrollment Fall 2002-2012



ISU Chinese Student Population

	Undergrad	% Change per year	Grad	% Change per year	Total Chinese Students	Total Intl Students	% of Intl Students	Total Students	% of Total Students
Fall 2006	55		554		609	2113	28.8%	24923	2.4%
Fall 2007	127	130.9%	601	8.5%	728	2244	32.4%	26160	2.8%
Fall 2008	422	232.3%	621	3.3%	1043	2497	41.8%	26856	3.9%
Fall 2009	876	107.6%	664	6.9%	1540	3017	51.0%	27945	5.5%
Fall 2010	1104	26.0%	660	-6.0%	1764	3327	53.0%	28682	6.2%
Fall 2011	1212	9.8%	637	-3.5%	1849	3424	54.0%	29887	6.2%
Fall 2012	1270	4.8%	647	1.6	1917	3510	54.6%	31040	6.2%

Chinese Students at ISU

- Fall 2008: Departments noticed change
- Academic issues
 - Many Chinese undergrads had failing GPAs
 - Poor language skills in classes
 - Not participating in classroom discussions & activities
- Behavioral Issues
 - Residence halls- roommate and cleanliness issues
 - Students indicating “too cold to go to class”
 - Not understanding/following US laws

Chinese Student Concept of Self

- Confucianism
 - Collectivism vs. Individualism
 - Respect for teacher



Issues International Students Face at ISU

- Separation and loss
 - Family, friends, culture/customs, social status
- Language barriers*
 - Feeling less intelligent
- Cognitive stress
 - Information overload
- Loneliness and social isolation



Issues Continued...

- Confusing local norms
 - Relationship with authority
 - Communication
- Identity and value confusion
 - Sense of self is not endorsed by familiar setting
- Discrimination and prejudice
 - First experience as member of minority group

Issues Continued...

- Difference in educational system
 - Self-directed
 - Grading
 - Communication with professors and classmates



*Limited English Proficiency

- Speed of lectures
- Accents/enunciation
- Slurred and Slang
 - “jeet”
 - “hereortogo”
- Irony or sarcasm



Dealing with American Values

- Achievement Mentality
- Directness
- Equality yet Individualism
- Informality
- Privacy
- Rule of Law
- Strong Time Orientation



What American Students Already Know...

- American English
- US educational system
 - Grades
 - Testing requirements
- Class norms/etiquette
 - Syllabi
 - Interacting with faculty
 - Group work



Key Ways to Help Students

- Explain how to communicate with professors
- Help them understand a syllabus
 - Prerequisites
 - Course requirements
 - How test scores correspond to a letter grade
 - In some countries a 70% is an A!
 - Class attendance policy
 - Due dates

Key Ways to Help Students

- Explain how to prepare for US exams
 - In China exams are
 - Infrequent
 - Not multiple choice
 - Not timed
- Explain Academic Misconduct
 - The many forms of plagiarism

Key Ways to Help Students

- How to access campus resources
 - Writing Center
 - Health services
 - International Students and Scholars Office
- De-stigmatize using these resources

Questions

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