

5 Things Every ICEP Student Should Do to Succeed



01

Meet with Your Faculty Advisor Each Semester

Schedule a check-in at least once per term to review your course plan and academic progress.

02

Stay Engaged in the ICEP Community

Stay informed and engaged through newsletters, events, and community activities.

03

Keep Your Academic Materials Organized

Maintain a personal system that keeps your academic life clear and manageable.

04

Build Meaningful Relationships with Faculty and Peers

Use your time at TC to build a strong academic network.

05

Pursue Professional Development Early and Consistently

Start exploring professional opportunities as early as your first semester.



FIVE Things Every ICEP Student Should Do to Succeed

1. Meet with Your Faculty Advisor Each Semester

Establish a consistent advising rhythm. Schedule a check-in at least once per term to review your course plan and academic progress. Come prepared with a draft course schedule, questions about degree requirements, and any concerns about workload, internships, or IP ideas. Advisors can also help you evaluate whether specific electives, cross-registration opportunities, or research projects fit your long-term academic or career trajectory.

2. Stay Engaged in the ICEP Community

Make it a habit to stay informed and involved. Read the **weekly Grace Dodge Notes and Career Newsletter** to keep up with deadlines, events, job postings, and opportunities. Attend department, program, and Center-sponsored¹ events such as ITS Workshops, career and professional development activities, film screenings, student-led conferences and “Coffee with the Director,” to name a few. There are also several student organizations affiliated with our program/department that host academic, cultural, and social events throughout the year. Being active in the community helps you stay connected with program updates, meet peers, and learn from ongoing work in the field.

3. Keep Your Academic Materials Organized

Maintain a personal system that keeps your academic life clear and manageable. Use our Course Planning Worksheets (available in the Student Handbook) to track required coursework, degree requirements, electives, and credits. Save syllabi, major assignments, research papers, course reflections, and feedback in a folder organized by semester. Keep your CV and résumé updated with each project, presentation, or research study. Having a well-organized academic portfolio makes advising meetings more productive and strengthens future applications for internships, assistantships, or doctoral programs.

4. Build Meaningful Relationships with Faculty and Peers

Use your time at TC to build a strong academic network. Attend faculty office hours not only when you need help but also when you want to explore ideas, learn about ongoing research, or discuss career interests. Participate in class discussions, collaborate with classmates on research or presentations, and engage in program-related activities. These relationships enrich your learning experience and often lead to mentorship, research opportunities, or future professional collaborations in the field of international and comparative education.

5. Pursue Professional Development Early and Consistently

Start exploring professional opportunities as early as your first semester. Attend workshops hosted by ICEP and/or TC Next on résumé writing, interview skills, and academic job preparation. Seek out internships, research assistantships, and other professional experiences that align with your academic interests. Actively engage with professional organizations - especially the **Comparative & International Education Society (CIES)**. Join CIES as a student member, explore Special Interest Groups (SIGs), and consider submitting a proposal to present at the annual CIES conference (the deadline is usually during the summer, and you might want to use one of your class papers as a springboard for the proposal).

These experiences deepen your understanding of the field, expose you to current research and policy debates, and help you build your professional identity and network. The earlier you begin exploring different resources, the more prepared you will be for doctoral studies, international development roles, NGO work, consulting, or careers in education policy and research.

¹ The ITS Department hosts three centers: the [Center for Chinese Education](#), the [George Clement Bond Center for African Education](#), and the [Center for Sustainable Futures](#).