Facts about SAL at NIU

Who’s SAL?

SAL stands for Student-at-Large. SALs are non-degree seeking students:

- They are “test-driving” a program;
- They are seeking Initial Teacher Certification or earning one of the 53 available Certificates of Graduate Study;
- They take courses to maintain their Illinois teacher’s certificate;
- They want to upgrade their teacher/administrator certificate or to add an endorsement;
- They enroll for their own enjoyment and edification; or
- They are transient students needing unique course work offered at NIU.

What limitations are placed on SALs?

Not many. Students-at-Large are admitted to the Graduate School. They are graduate students, and they are subject to the same rules and standards of performance as other graduate students.

If a SAL decides to pursue admission to a degree-granting program, a predetermined number of hours taken as a SAL may be applied toward a graduate degree. So, if after a semester or two as a SAL you decide to go for a degree, you must apply for admission to a program.

SALs are not eligible for graduate assistantships. They may not be eligible for federally subsidized loans, and if a SAL is eligible for a Stafford Loan, the period of eligibility is limited to 12 months.

How do I apply as a SAL?

It’s simple. Go to www.grad.niu.edu/apply/atlarge.shtml and follow the link to “Apply as a Student-at-Large.” The SAL application is quick, easy, and FREE.

Once you submit your application, you will need to forward immediately either a photocopy of your bachelor’s or master’s diploma, an official copy or legible photocopy of your transcript, or other substantial/official proof that you have received a prior degree from a regionally accredited university or college. Those items can be faxed to (815) 753-6366; e-mailed as PDFs or TIFs to gradsch@niu.edu; or mailed to The Graduate School, Adams Hall 223, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois 60115-2864.

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