



AP 5012 International Students

The Victor Valley Community College District may admit international students who are have an F-1 Visa or other legally acceptable visa to pursue an associate's degree. International students, who come from all over the world, must comply with certain requirements imposed both by the District and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). International students pay nonresidential tuition and a capital outlay fee in addition to college enrollment fees (see AP 5020 Nonresident Tuition and AP 5030 Fees for more information on fees and exemptions.)

1. Admission of International Students (F-1 Visa)

a. Under Federal Law, Victor Valley College is authorized to enroll non-immigrant students on F-1 student visas for associate degrees with or without a major or for the first two years of general education toward an accredited Baccalaureate Degree Program.

b. Admission is subject to the requirements stated below and to the approval of the International Student Center. An international student interested in applying must follow international student admission guidelines and complete the application materials.

1. An application process includes the submission of appropriate visa information from the country of residence, including INS forms.
2. All foreign transcripts must be translated into English, and the translation must be certified unless the institution issues English-language transcripts or dual-English transcripts.
3. All F-1 visa students are subject to nonresident tuition as set forth by the Board of Trustees.
4. All F-1 visa students must purchase international student health insurance through Victor Valley College.
5. All F-1 visa students must submit paperwork to substantiate issuance by the District of form I-20.

2. Admissions Requirements

1. General: All Applicants



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- (a) An applicant must have adequate English language ability to enable the student to profit from instruction at the college level. Acceptable English proficiency is determined by a satisfactory score (minimum 94) on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS). These exams are administered worldwide.
If the test is not available in the applicant's area, results of an equivalent English standardized exam accepted by a U.S. consulate or complete the highest level of English at a U.S. accredited English as a Second Language program may be substituted.
- (b) Submission of the District's International Student Application and F1 Visa Student Agreement
- (c) Submission of high school grade reports and, if applicable, English language program transcripts and all other college or university grade reports.
- (d) Submission of a confidential financial statement and bank certification letter showing proof of sufficient funds to cover a minimum of one year of studies. An applicant must present evidence of financial resources to pay expenses during the period of attendance at the District. Minimum annual costs include a nonresident tuition fee, enrollment fees, health insurance, textbooks, supplies, living expenses, including room and board, food, and miscellaneous items. Applicants should contact the International Student Center for a current estimate of costs. Students should anticipate increases each year.
- (e) Applicants under 18 must submit a copy of their high school diploma or a high school completion certificate or GED certificate or equivalent.
- (f) Applicants who have attended College and would like to transfer these units to VVC should submit two official college transcripts
- (g) Submission of a copy of valid passport.
- (h) F-1 students must purchase the medical insurance plan, which is approved by the District.

The District notifies eligible international students of their acceptance by providing students with an official acceptance letter and issuing an I-20 Certificate of Eligibility for Non-Immigrant (F-1) Student Status for Academic and Language Students. F-1 Visa students are required to maintain full-time status for the duration of their studies. International students must maintain the same standard of scholarship as other students and are subject to the same rules of academic standing (e.g., probation and disqualification).

2. Limitations and Exceptions



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- (a) An international student accepted by another collegiate institution in the United States and enters the United States with an I-20 provided by that institution must report to the issuing institution before applying for transfer to Victor Valley College.
- (b) An applicant for Admission in F-1 visa status who has completed College or university work above what is usually offered at a community college level in the United States (first two years of a four-year collegiate program) will be considered overly qualified and may not be eligible for Admission to Victor Valley College.

3. Orientation

- (a) Fall semester: Students are able to complete their orientation, testing, counseling, and registration prior to the opening date. The reporting date is in early July. A required, alternative orientation is scheduled for students who cannot report to the College in early July due to late visa interviews.
- (b) Spring semester: Students are able to complete their orientation, testing, counseling, and registration prior to the opening date. The reporting date is in early January. A required, alternative orientation is scheduled for students who cannot report to the College in early January due to late visa interviews.

4. Work

International students can submit a request to the International Student Center for on-campus work authorization after completing at least 12 units of study at VCC with satisfactory grades. For off-campus employment, approval by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) is required.

5. Housing

International students arrange for their housing.

6. Maximum Period of Enrollment



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An international student is expected to complete a program in the most expeditious manner possible, generally in four or five semesters. Five semesters of postsecondary enrollment is the maximum length of study permitted, although students can request an extension each additional year after that. However, students admitted to the nursing, dental, or radiology programs can complete their program with an additional two semesters.

7. Regulations

An international student should become familiar and comply with U.S. government federal immigration regulations and the College's regulations on student conduct. A student who drops below full-time enrollment without authorization or violates any of the regulations related to their F-1 visa category is considered "out-of-status" and must leave the U.S. immediately or file a status reinstatement with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). A student filing for status reinstatement must first meet the Department of Homeland Security conditions before they are eligible to file.

8. Full-time Enrollment Requirement

An F-1 visa student must attend the College full-time during the fall and spring semesters.

2. Admission of International Students : Other than F-1 Visa

Residence determination, including review of whether the student holds a visa that requires the student to have a residence outside of the U.S. or entered the U.S. under a visa that permits entry solely for a temporary purpose. Some students with current visas other than F-1 may be eligible for Admission subject to the approval of the Director of Admissions and Records.

Exemptions from nonresident tuition as authorized by Education Code Section F76140 subdivision (a)(2) for financial need.

Students in visa categories that allow incidental study are ultimately responsible for upholding the regulations of their respective visa type. If admitted, such students will be subject to nonresident tuition and may be limited in their enrollment. Students with current A, E, G, H-1, I, K, L, O-1 and R Visas, as well as those on refugee, parolee, or asylum status, may establish California residency. Once California residence is documented, these visa types are not required to pay



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nonresident tuition. Undocumented students must pay nonresident fees, unless they meet the requirement of AB540.

Calculation of nonresident tuition fee applicable to noncitizens who have not or cannot establish residence, in an amount not to exceed the amount expended by the District for capital outlay in the preceding fiscal year divided by the total full-time equivalent students. This fee cannot exceed 50 percent (50%) of the nonresident tuition charged other nonresidents.

References:

Education Code Sections 76141 and 76142;
Title 5 Section 54045;
Title 8 U.S. Code Sections 1101 et seq.