International Student Applicant: Please review the information below to answer many of the most frequently asked questions. If the information below does not resolve all your questions, visit [http://www.wlac.edu/International-F1-Visa/index.aspx](http://www.wlac.edu/International-F1-Visa/index.aspx) to download our application and brochures. You may also schedule an appointment by emailing us at studentvisa@wlac.edu.

**What are the benefits of applying to West Los Angeles College?**

West is a fully-accredited community college designed to prepare students for university-transfer and for careers. Students that begin the university transfer program can transfer to private/independent colleges (e.g. USC, Pepperdine, Loyola Marymount) in as little as one year. Students can transfer to UC’s (UCLA, Berkeley, Santa Barbara, etc.) or CSU’s (Cal Poly, Long Beach, Northridge, etc.) in as little as two years. Students complete the equivalent of the 1st and 2nd year at West and complete the 3rd and 4th year at the university to earn a Baccalaureate Degree.

West has over 40 Associate Degree & Career Certificate programs.

**What are the application deadlines?**

All application forms and supporting documents must be submitted prior to the dates below:

- **Summer Session Application Deadline:** January 1 – April 15th
- **Fall Semester Application Deadline:** January 1st – June 30th
- **Spring Semester Application Deadline:** September 1st – November 30th

**What are the basic admission requirements?**

- International Student Application
- Application Processing Fee Form ($35)
- Evidence of English Proficiency
- Financial Documentation

You must review the comprehensive list of required documents and forms by downloading the International Student Application.

**What is the cost of tuition/fees?**

F-1 Visa students can expect to contribute approximately $7,500 per year in tuition and fees. This is an estimate of your tuition, required medical insurance policy, and supplies. We request applicants to demonstrate access to a minimum of $17,000 to cover tuition, supplies, medical insurance fee, and living expenses. Tuition and fees must be paid at the time of enrollment into classes. No financial aid is available.

**I have never applied for an F-1 Visa. What is the new student process?**

If you have never applied or received an F-1 Visa, you will need to submit the international student application, the application processing fee, and all required documentation. If admitted, you will receive an acceptance letter from the International Student Program and an Initial Form I-20. You can then schedule an appointment with the U.S. Embassy or consulate in your home country to interview for the F-1 Visa. We encourage you to visit [http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1268.html#apply](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1268.html#apply) for a comprehensive overview of the F-1 Visa process by the US Department of State.

**I currently have an F-1 Visa. What is the transfer student process?**

If you are currently studying in the United States on a valid F-1 Visa, you may transfer your active SEVIS record to us and receive an updated Form I-20. You will need to submit the international student application, the application processing fee, and all required documentation. If admitted, you will receive an acceptance letter from the International Student Program. You can then provide that letter to your current college/school/university and they will transfer your SEVIS record to West. Once we receive your SEVIS record, we will contact you to notify you that your new Form I-20 is available for pick-up or mailing.

**I have an I-20 with another college. May I enroll in classes at West if I am a student at a different college?**

F-1 Visa students from other community colleges may concurrently enroll in classes at West with prior approval. Each semester, you will need to present a permission letter from your current school and a copy of your F-1 visa, passport, and your I-20 (pg. 1 and 3).

**I have been terminated by my current school. Can I attend West?**

Yes, you will need to complete the New I-20 Application. You will be required to apply to West, to obtain an acceptance letter and Form I-20, to pay the I-901 fee, to obtain a valid F-1 visa (if required), and to validate the I-20 by traveling outside of the U.S.
**May I transfer college units from previous U.S. colleges/universities? International colleges/universities?**

Yes, you may transfer college credits earned at previous U.S. colleges and universities. You should request your college to mail official transcripts to West’s Admissions & Records Office. You should also be prepared to provide a copy of previous college work when meeting with a counselor so that they can better advise you and/or clear prerequisites for specific classes (if applicable).

Yes, you may transfer college credits earned at an international college/university. You will need to send your transcripts to an approved transcript evaluation service and have that service mail an official report to West’s Admissions & Records Office. You should also be prepared to provide a copy of that report when meeting with a counselor so that they can better advise you and/or clear prerequisites for specific classes (if applicable).

Only a counselor at West can definitively tell you what courses and how many units West will accept onto our college transcript.

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**Does West Los Angeles College have student housing?**

Like most other California Community Colleges, West does not offer campus student housing. You are encouraged to independently search for housing options (e.g. apartments, homestays, hostels, hotels, etc.)

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**May I work as an F-1 Visa student at West?**

F-1 Visa students may work “on-campus” with prior approval from the International Student Program and with approval from the Social Security Administration. On-campus work is limited to a maximum of 20 hours per week while maintaining full-time enrollment status. “Off-campus” work is prohibited.

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**May I apply for Optional Practical Training (OPT) at West?**

The International Student Program at West will only approve OPT for students that have been completed a minimum of 24 units in a U.S. college/university; including completion of 12 units at West prior to applying for OPT. We will not issue Form I-20’s with an OPT authorization for students transferring from another college during their first semester at West.

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**Am I required to purchase LACCD’s Medical Insurance Program?**

F-1 Visa students with any of the nine (9) Los Angeles Community College District campuses, including West, are required to purchase the district mandated medical insurance policy. There are no waivers for the LACCD insurance policy (LACCD Board Rule 2309.30). Students are automatically billed for health insurance. If used correctly, it can cover 100% of medical expenses in case of accident and illness (certain exceptions may apply).

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**What are my student responsibilities if admitted to West?**

In short, you are required to complete a minimum of 12 units per semester with a passing grade (summer/winter intersessions are not required), to pay your tuition and fees immediately, to notify the International Student Program of any changes to your status (e.g. change of phone number, address, email, academic progress, enrollment, etc.), to meet with a counselor every semester to ensure academic progress, and maintain all F-1 Visa requirements. Enrollment below 12 units at West is permitted in limited circumstances with prior written approval by the International Student Program.

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**What other international programs does West offer?**

Students that wish to earn a degree at West Los Angeles College but cannot travel to the United States on an F-1 Visa may apply for our “Earn Your Degree Online” program. This program allows you to enroll in West’s online classes and study from your home county. For more information, please visit [www.wlac.edu/international_online/](http://www.wlac.edu/international_online/).

Students that do not meet West Los Angeles College’s application requirements and/or do not meet the English Proficiency Requirement may consider enrollment in the West Language Academy. The West Language Academy, offered through the Westside Extension, offers in Intensive Language Program. For more information, visit [www.wlac.edu/westlanguageacademy/](http://www.wlac.edu/westlanguageacademy/).