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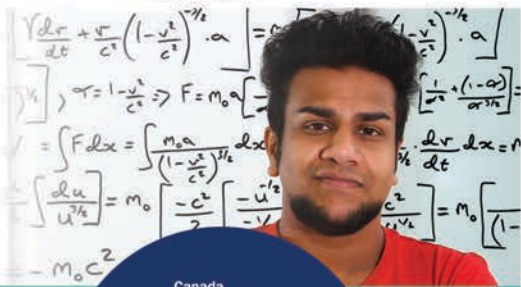
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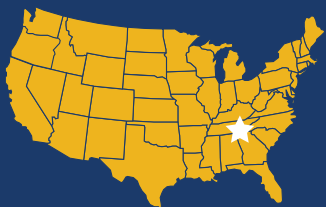
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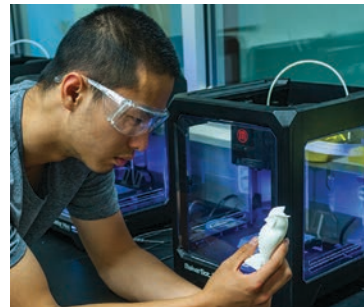
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INTERVIEWS

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TELL THEIR STORIES!



30 ASHISH DAKARAPU

from India is a graduate student majoring in Computer Science at Western Illinois University in Macomb, Illinois.



32 KRISHNA MUSUNURI

from India is studying for a master's degree in Computer Science at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, Arkansas.



38 CHANDANDEEP SINGH THIND

from India is studying Computer Science at Cerritos College in Norwalk, California.



40 HAYWARDS DAVID

from India is a graduate student majoring in Applied Exercise Physiology at Mississippi College in Clinton, Mississippi.



77 AERIK PATEL

from India graduated with associate degree in Business Administration from Delaware County Community College in Media, Pennsylvania

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It would mean that you have more opportunities.

Studying in the United States and abroad doesn't just give you tangible degrees and certificates. Your experience says something about who you are. Living and studying in another country—especially where your language isn't spoken—is challenging, requires courage and



“The education system in the USA is very flexible, offering courses and topics that broaden our worldviews, helping us realize our true selves and dreams.”

—Elene Beridze from Georgia, studying Political Science/Criminal Law at Manhattanville College

“I was surprised that students in the U.S. are free to present their points of view, and the teachers do not deny them; rather, they welcome the spirit by giving extra points and with class discussions.”

—Nhi Tran from Vietnam, studying English at the Intensive English Center (IEC) at St. Cloud State University

a positive attitude. Sometimes these characteristics are more influential than your degree.

You may be pleasantly surprised to find that the images from films and television programs are not always true. Americans come in a variety of sizes, colors, and shapes. In general, they are very friendly and will be interested in learning about you and your country.

Living and learning in the USA will exhilarate you. It will change the landscape of your life permanently. We guarantee that you will return home changed—more confident, more open and knowledgeable, making you a citizen of the world with a much broader perspective!

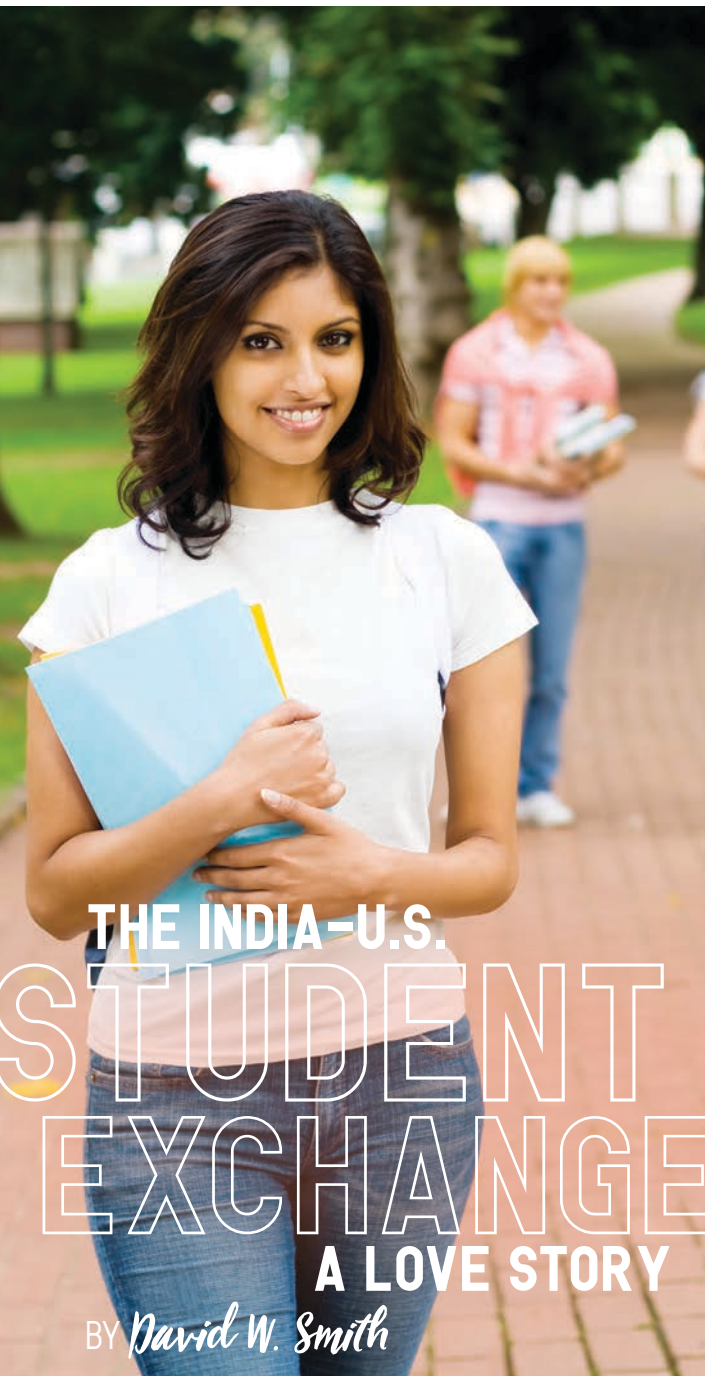
Use this **Study in the USA®** magazine and **StudyUSA.com** to help you embark on this exciting academic voyage and make your next decision—where to study as an international student. ✨

“I love the diversity of the people here, as well as the quality of the teachers.”

—Cruzkaya Barbosa from Venezuela, studying English and Nutrition and Dietetics at Howard Community College



LIVING AND STUDYING IN ANOTHER COUNTRY—ESPECIALLY WHERE YOUR LANGUAGE ISN'T SPOKEN—IS CHALLENGING AND REQUIRES COURAGE AND A POSITIVE ATTITUDE.



THE INDIA-U.S.

STUDENT EXCHANGE

A LOVE STORY

BY *David W. Smith*

Many Americans are surprised to discover that over 165,000 students from India are presently studying in the United States, but for those familiar with India, and the interest there in education, that fact should not be surprising. India and the United States have considerable interest in each other, including trading over \$60 billion (USD) in goods and services every year. And because India is the world's largest democracy, there should be a natural interest by citizens of both countries in that relationship.

Much as is the case for trade, where each trading partner supplies needs of the other for things that are impossible or impractical to produce at home, education provides opportunities for students to learn things that might be difficult or impossible to learn in one's native country. Many Indian students come to the United States to study business, computer science or engineering, gaining not only skills in a particular topic, but also gaining invaluable understanding of the nuances of culture that contribute to understanding of the people of another country. It is that combination of increased skill and cultural literacy that enables students who participate in international educational exchange to have an advantage over students who may possess technical knowledge only.

Regardless of topic, studying and living in another country provides insights that extend far beyond the covers of a textbook or the walls of a classroom.

Sometimes forgotten is that this deep cultural fluency is bi-directional. Students from the United States who visit India for study will find just as much value in the new skills and understanding they learn as do Indian student in America. This is why more schools, and even the United States Department of State are encouraging students from the United States to study abroad.

It simply is not possible to

and new approaches to arts and science come easily to mind. Can you imagine arranging an exhibit of Indian art to tour America (or vice versa) without knowledge of the history and culture that produced the art in the first place? It's not difficult to see the increased potential, and the appeal for students who look outside the traditional study areas of business and science. Art, the humanities, and many other sub-

await an international student in any discipline will be there.

Second, while education can certainly be costly, every school is looking for a different variety of abilities, skills and backgrounds that help to create the school's unique learning community. If you're smart, you can find schools that value your contribution enough to make the experience possible through some sort of financial aid.

"ONLY BY INTERACTING WITH OTHERS FROM ANOTHER CULTURE CAN ONE FULLY UNDERSTAND THE TWO MOST INTERESTING THINGS THERE ARE TO KNOW ABOUT THE WORLD—HOW SIMILAR PEOPLE EVERYWHERE ARE, AND HOW DIFFERENT."

be a truly international citizen by only reading about things, or watching movies. Only by interacting with others from another culture can one fully understand the two most interesting things there are to know about the world—how similar people everywhere are, and how different. It is only after this reality is internalized that people can understand each other well enough to effectively develop sustainable global economic growth and contribute to an improved business climate, creating jobs and wealth for both sides of the exchange.

Apart from business opportunities, there are substantial additional benefits to exchange; improved global diplomacy, shared research opportunities

jects can also open a pathway to a future filled with possibility.

The real question then presents itself—how can a student take advantage of this great opportunity? Isn't it true that only study in a top-ten school is worthwhile? Isn't it costly? Isn't international study only available to the most accomplished or gifted students? Fortunately, none of these are true.

First, there are hundreds, perhaps thousands, of great schools in the United States that welcome international students. Look for schools that are accredited by recognized accreditation agents. Regardless of school choice, as long as a soundly accredited school is selected, the benefits of deep cultural and technical understanding that

If you are a reasonably good student with good communication skills, and desire to have a truly international experience, you will find it possible to do so. For specific information, there are many resources—school websites, representatives of U.S. higher education institutions who visit India, the EducationUSA office near you, and alumni of U.S. schools are all extremely valuable resources available to anyone who puts forth the effort to find them. The opportunity to expand and achieve your full potential is waiting for you. What are you waiting for? 🌟

David W. Smith is the Executive Director, Office of Global Affairs West Virginia University.



ENJOY THE MANY VARIETIES OF
**AMERICAN
COLLEGES
& UNIVERSITIES**

BY *Willard Dix*



Most Americans think that “Indian food” consists mostly of some curries, rice, naan, and a few vegetarian dishes. Yet for those willing to explore, the variety of Indian food provides an almost infinite and delicious number of options. Just the division between North and South Indian cuisine indicates spectacular differences worth trying, if a diner is willing to experiment.

Similarly, most non-Americans considering U. S. colleges and universities know of only a very few. Those like Harvard and Stanford are so famous they overshadow the other nearly 4,000 institutions that make up American higher education. But those willing to explore the college world beyond those internationally known names will find a variety as compelling as any Indian dish.

Unlike most of the rest of the world, the United States does not have a single national university to which most students aspire. Each state has its own public university, such as the University of Michigan, the University of California or Louisiana State University, with each of those also having branches in smaller cities and towns. They enroll mostly state residents but also welcome those from other states and many from abroad. And they

offer a wide menu of courses and majors. The University of Illinois, for example, offers respected degrees in fields as varied as business, engineering, education, and agriculture.

Four-year private colleges and universities make up the remaining menu, offering educational opportunities for students in every field one can imagine. While an individual private college may not have as many options for students as a large university, it still provides exceptional educational experiences, whether student seek a bachelor's degree or wish to earn an advanced degree in the future. Small colleges like Kenyon, Amherst, Davidson, and Lafayette offer many majors as well as programs providing students opportunities to put their educations to work.

Because of their fame, schools like Harvard, Stanford, Yale, and MIT receive many more applications from students in the U.S. and around the world than they can admit. Schools like these reject as much as 95 percent of their applicants. However, many other institutions in the U.S. accept more than 50 percent of their applicants. Most gladly welcome students from abroad. American colleges strongly believe that having students from many backgrounds on campus is valuable for everyone's education, and they are eager to

enroll students who will bring unique and varied viewpoints to their campuses.

Many colleges and universities that are not household names offer educations that fit a student's tastes and desires better than a more familiar one. They may be smaller, so students get more attention; they may have unique programs found nowhere else; or they may have well-funded and equipped laboratories that give undergraduates high-level experiences. Many lesser known but highly regarded institutions specialize in areas

LOOK BEYOND "NAME BRAND" INSTITUTIONS

such as engineering, the arts or business. The Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), Babson College, or Worcester Polytechnic Institute offer exceptional programs. Having these options encourages broad thinking about what students want in their lives and careers.

When it comes time to decide where to attend college, parents usually feel that students should be satisfied with their options. At that moment, the end of high school, there are so many items on the menu it's up to the stu-

dent to choose, with parents guiding them based on their experience.

Luckily, the Internet makes searching for and evaluating colleges easier than ever. Parents and students can search sites like **Study in the USA** (StudyUSA.com), Big Future (bigfuture.collegeboard.org) or the Common Application (commonapp.org) together to see the varied menu. Each site (as well as many others) offers ways to search colleges, such as by school type, majors, and region of the country. Discussing these options as a family can be very helpful when considering making such a huge decision. Whether a student is interested in engineering or literature, there will be several good choices available, with the added bonus that many institutions allow students to major in more than one area if they wish.

Looking beyond "name brand" institutions will help you find American colleges and universities uniquely suited to your child's talents, interests, and abilities. Their variety, while bewildering at first, will provide exciting opportunities for any student. ★

Willard Dix is a freelance blogger at forbes.com.



APPLYING FOR ADMISSION



student tip

"An awesome life experience is waiting for you in the future. You will learn so much more than you think. Nothing is impossible, so go ahead and give it a try."
—Paolo Kwan, from Hong Kong, Business Administration & English at Sierra College

Each U.S. university and college sets its own admission standards and decides which applicants meet those standards. Therefore, you must apply separately to each university or college.

Even if you have selected one school where you are sure you want to study abroad, you should still apply to other schools—it is possible that your “first choice” school may not accept you. At least one or two of your choices should be schools where you and your advisor are fairly certain you will be admitted. Remember that you are competing with prospective international students from all over the world for a limited number of spaces.

Most schools in the USA encourage prospective international students to contact their admissions office at least one year before planning to enter that school.

Follow these helpful steps as you apply for admission to U.S. universities and colleges.

Write to Several Schools

After you have selected the schools you want to attend, contact each school for an application form and more international student admission information. You can use the school advertisements

throughout this magazine and StudyUSA.com as information resources to help you make your choice. On StudyUSA.com, you can contact schools directly to request information.

If you wish to apply for a graduate (postgraduate) program you should verify the admission requirements with the specific graduate school within the university. Many graduate programs have higher admission standards and some programs require applications to be sent directly to their department. You should be in good academic standing if you expect to be admitted to a graduate program. Contact either the admissions office of the graduate school or the chairperson of the department.

Please mention that you learned about the school from Study in the USA®.

Send Application Forms

Universities and colleges in the USA usually base their admission decisions on a student’s academic record and applicable test scores, such as TOEFL, the SAT or ACT. If you are applying to graduate schools, additional exam scores such as the GRE or GMAT will be required.

The admissions office or graduate school depart-

MOST APPLICATIONS WILL REQUEST THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

Personal information—

Include your name, age, address, family background, birthplace, citizenship, and so on.

Activities—Make a list of club memberships, awards earned, team sports experience, or leadership roles you have held.

Education plan—Write a short essay explaining why you want to attend this school, what course of study you want to pursue, your career goals, and research plans.

Essay—Some schools require a personal essay on a topic of your choosing. See sidebar.

Letters of

recommendation—The application form will include several blank pages for your letters of recommendation. Ask several of your teachers to compose and mail these letters directly to the admissions office of each school you choose.

ment will send you information about their academic programs and an application form. (You might be able to obtain a specific school’s application form online or at

your local educational advising center.)

The fee for each application is US\$35 to US\$100. This money pays for processing your application and is non-refundable, even if you aren't admitted to the school. If you mail your application, make sure to contact the admissions office to confirm your application was received.

The admissions office will review your marks earned during the last four years of secondary school. Your results from your country's national secondary school examinations will also be reviewed. If you are applying to a graduate program your marks from university or college will be taken into consideration.

Ask the school you are now attending, or the school you have attended most recently, to mail a certified copy of your academic record or "transcript" to the schools to which you are applying. Prior to taking your admissions tests, you should arrange for official score reports to be sent to the universities or colleges that interest you.

Be sure to send your application to each university or college well before the application deadline. This gives you some extra time to resolve any possible delays.

Register for Admissions Tests

Students applying to universities and colleges in the United States must take certain examinations (SAT, ACT, GMAT, etc.) that measure aptitude and achievement. International students must also take a test that measures English language proficiency. They are "standardized" so that students take the same test at every test center. Your scores give the admissions office a uniform international standard for measuring your ability in comparison with other students. These tests are given at test centers around the world.

Take the Admissions Tests

Your test scores are sent directly to the schools to which you are applying. You will be asked to indicate the names of these schools when you register to take certain tests, such as the SAT or ACT. In the case of computer-based tests, you will designate the schools at the exam site and the testing agencies will mail your scores directly to them. There will be a fee for scores that you request at a later date.

Receive Acceptance Letters

After the application deadline, you will begin receiving

letters from your chosen schools. Some universities inform candidates of their acceptance soon after their documents have arrived in the admissions office; this is called "rolling admissions." Other schools, however, wait several months and inform all candidates at one time.

Pay Your Deposit

Most universities require students to pay a deposit by a certain deadline in order to reserve a space in the entering class. For international students this deposit can be as high as a semester's or a full year's tuition.

You should send your deposit immediately if you are applying for financial aid or if you plan to live in university housing. Because many schools do not have enough campus housing for all the students, you will have a better chance of getting a room on campus if you send your housing application and room deposit fee as quickly as possible.

You may also be required to provide a statement indicating how much money you will have available during the years you will be attending the school. If you have a scholarship or a sponsorship from your government and/or company, you will need to send details of your award. ★

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- Hofstra is the only university to host three consecutive U.S. Presidential Debates (2008, 2012, and 2016).

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Hofstra prepares international students for academic success through a rigorous program of English language instruction, which, upon completion, permits them to transition to fully matriculated status.

For more information about Hofstra University, visit hofstra.edu/studyUSA today.

Email: InternationalAdmission@hofstra.edu

Located on Long Island, New York, Hofstra is just 25 miles/40 kilometers east of New York City and its wide range of cultural, internship, and job opportunities.



When preparing for any of the tests discussed in this article students should keep in mind that good English language instruction is an essential foundation. Consider going through an intensive English language program prior to your university studies. This will make your classes easier. Just like any field of study, English language proficiency can be achieved with continued study and practice.

Take plenty of time to prepare for each test. Use available preparation materials to familiarize yourself with the test's structure and guidelines. Instructions on taking computer- and paper-based tests are generally available for each exam.

Use available sample questions and exercises. Examples of authentic questions and previously used topics are often available, as well as sample tests. Get as much practice as you can before taking the actual exam.

Simulate the test situation. Find out as much as you can about the test environment, and practice in a similar setting. Allow yourself only the time allocated for the actual test. Practice working through sections as quickly and effectively as possible, identifying and focusing on areas where you need improvement.

Take advantage of all the resources available to you. The more you know about a test and how it is scored, the more efficiently you can approach it. The Internet is an excellent resource, and most online information is free.

Follow directions. Read all the instructions thoroughly and completely before beginning any test. Make sure you understand your objectives and how to achieve them. Don't worry if you don't know an answer—concentrate on the current question, and do the best you can, but don't spend too much time on any one item. Pace yourself so you have enough time to answer every question.

Be relaxed and confident. Get plenty of sleep before any exam. Remember, the more rested and better prepared you are, the more comfortable and positive you'll be during the test.

WRITE AN AWESOME ESSAY

You may not be familiar with the American practice of writing a personal essay to submit with your university application. Here are some tips on how to write an awesome essay!

Step 1: Think of a great topic. Your essay topic should have personal meaning for you. It should reveal something about who you are, your values or interests, and how you are different from any other applicant. Write something about yourself that cannot be reflected by your grades, the list of classes that you've taken, or in any other part of your application. There are several questions you can ask yourself that will help you think of ideas: (1) What are you like? (2) What have you done? (3) What are your goals?

Step 2: Write your essay. Good writing takes time. Don't rush or expect to finish your essay in one afternoon. Pay special attention to the introduction. Draw in the reader so that he or she is interested in finding what the rest of your essay will reveal. Use simple words to express your ideas; you don't have to use complex vocabulary words to show how much English you know. Use the language to express yourself, not to prove how smart you are. If you make a statement, give an example to demonstrate your point.

Step 3: Take your time and ask for help. Leave yourself enough time so that you can stop working on your essay for a few days—even a week—and then come back to it. This will allow you to read your essay with a fresh perspective. Also, have your friends and family read your essay—they will be able to see things you've missed or neglected to mention. Have fun, take your time, be yourself and tell your story well!

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UNDERSTANDING

THE AMERICAN EDUCATION SYSTEM

BY *Jennifer Privette*

The American education system offers a rich field of choices for international students. There is such an array of schools, programs and locations that the choices may overwhelm students, even those from the U.S. As you begin your school search, it's important to familiarize yourself with the American education system. Understanding the system will help you narrow your choices and develop your education plan.

The Educational Structure

Primary and Secondary School

Prior to higher education, American students attend primary and secondary school for a combined total of 12 years. These years are referred to as the first through twelfth grades.

Around age six, U.S. children begin primary school, which is most commonly called "elementary school." They attend five or six years and then go onto secondary school.

Secondary school consists of two programs: the first is "middle school" or "junior high school" and the second program is "high school." A diploma or certificate is awarded upon graduation from high school. After graduating high school (12th grade), U.S. students may go on to college or university. College or university study is known as "higher education."

Grading System

Just like American students, you will have to submit your academic transcripts as part of your application for admission to university or college. Academic transcripts are official copies of your academic work. In the U.S. this includes your "grades" and "grade point average" (GPA), which are measurements of your academic achievement. Courses are commonly graded using percentages, which are converted into letter grades.

The grading system and GPA in the USA can be confusing, especially for international students. The interpretation of grades has a lot of variation. For example, two students who attended different schools both submit their transcripts to the same university. They both have 3.5 GPAs, but one student attended an average high school, while the other attended a prestigious

Tip

"I like that schedules are flexible, classes are fun, and the variety of activities I can participate in."

—Xujie Zhao, from China, studying Computer Networking at Wentworth Institute of Technology

school that was academically challenging. The university might interpret their GPAs differently because the two schools have dramatically different standards.

Therefore, there are some crucial things to keep in mind:

- + You should find out the U.S. equivalent of the last level of education you completed in your home country.
- + Pay close attention to the admission requirements of each university and college, as well as individual degree programs, which may have different requirements than the university.
- + Regularly meet with an educational advisor or guidance counselor to make sure you are meeting the requirements.

Your educational advisor or guidance counselor will be able to advise you on whether or not you must spend an extra year or two preparing for U.S. university admission. If an international student entered a U.S.

GRADING POLICY

Grade	Grade Point Value
A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D+	67-69%
D	60-66%
F	0-59%
I	Incomplete 0

university or college prior to being eligible to attend university in their own country, some countries' governments and employers may not recognize the students' U.S. education.

Academic Year

The school calendar usually begins in August or September and continues through May or June. The majority of new students begin in autumn, so it is a good idea for international students to also begin their U.S. university studies at this time. There is a lot of excitement at the beginning of the school year and students form many great friendships during this time, as they are all adjusting to a new phase of academic life. Additionally, many courses are designed for students to take them in sequence, starting in autumn and continuing through the year.

The academic year at many schools is composed of two terms called "semesters." (Some schools use a three-term calendar known as the "trimester"

system.) Still, others further divide the year into the quarter system of four terms, including an optional summer session. Basically, if you exclude the summer session, the academic year is either comprised of two semesters or three quarter terms.

The U.S. Higher Education System - Levels of Study

First Level: Undergraduate

A student who is attending a college or university and has not earned a bachelor's degree is studying at the undergraduate level. It typically takes about four years to earn a bachelor's degree. You can either begin your studies in pursuit of a bachelor's degree at a community college or a four-year university or college.

Your first two years of study you will generally be required to take a wide variety of classes in different subjects, commonly known as prerequisite courses:

literature, science, the social sciences, the arts, history, and so forth. This is so you achieve a general knowledge, a foundation, of a variety of subjects prior to focusing on a specific field of study.

Many students choose to study at a community college in order to complete the first two years of prerequisite courses. They will earn an Associate of Arts (AA) transfer degree and then transfer to a four-year university or college.

A "major" is the specific field of study in which your degree is focused. For example, if someone's major is journalism, they will earn a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism. You will be required to take a certain number of courses in this field in order to meet the degree requirements of your major. You must choose your major at the beginning of your third year of school.

A very unique characteristic of the American higher education system is that you can change your major multiple times if you choose. It is extremely common for American students to switch majors at some point in their undergraduate studies. Often, students discover a different field that they excel in or enjoy. The American education system is very flexible. Keep in mind though that switching majors may result in more courses, which means more time and money.

tip

[In the U.S.] I can decide on my major when I'm ready; and if I change my mind, there are still some general units that are accepted for every major and I just need to take additional classes to fulfill the requirements to transfer to a four-year university.

—Vy Cao, from Vietnam, Biochemistry at Alameda College (one of the Peralta Colleges)



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Second Level: Graduate in Pursuit of a Master's Degree

Presently, a college or university graduate with a bachelor's degree may want to seriously think about graduate study in order to enter certain professions or advance their career. This degree is usually mandatory for higher-level positions in fields like library science, engineering, behavioral health, and education.

Furthermore, international students from some countries are only permitted to study abroad at a graduate level. You should inquire about the credentials needed to get a job in your country before you apply to a postgraduate university in the USA.

A graduate program is usually a division of a university or college. To gain admission, you will need to take the GRE (Graduate Record Examination). Certain master's programs require specific tests, such as the LSAT for law school, the GRE or GMAT for business school, and the MCAT for medical school.

Graduate programs in pursuit of a master's degree typically take one to two years to complete. For example, the MBA (Master of Business Administration) is an extremely popular degree program that takes about two years. Other master's programs, such as journalism, only take one year.

The majority of a master's program is spent in classroom study and a graduate student must prepare a long research paper called a "master's thesis" or complete a "master's project."

Third Level: Graduate in Pursuit of a Doctorate Degree

Many graduate schools consider the attainment of a master's degree the first step towards earning a Ph.D. (doctorate). But at other schools, students may prepare directly for a doctorate without also earning a master's degree. It may take three years or more to earn a Ph.D. degree. For international students, it may take as long as five or six years.

For the first two years of the program most doctoral candidates enroll in classes and seminars. At least another year is spent conducting firsthand research and writing a thesis or dissertation. This paper must contain views, designs, or research that have not been previously published.

A doctoral dissertation is a discussion and summary of the current scholarship on a given topic. Most U.S. universities awarding doctorates also require their candidates to have a reading knowledge of two foreign languages, to spend a required length of time "in residence," to pass a qualifying examination that officially

admits candidates to the Ph.D. program, and to pass an oral examination on the same topic as the dissertation.

Characteristics of the U.S. Higher Education System

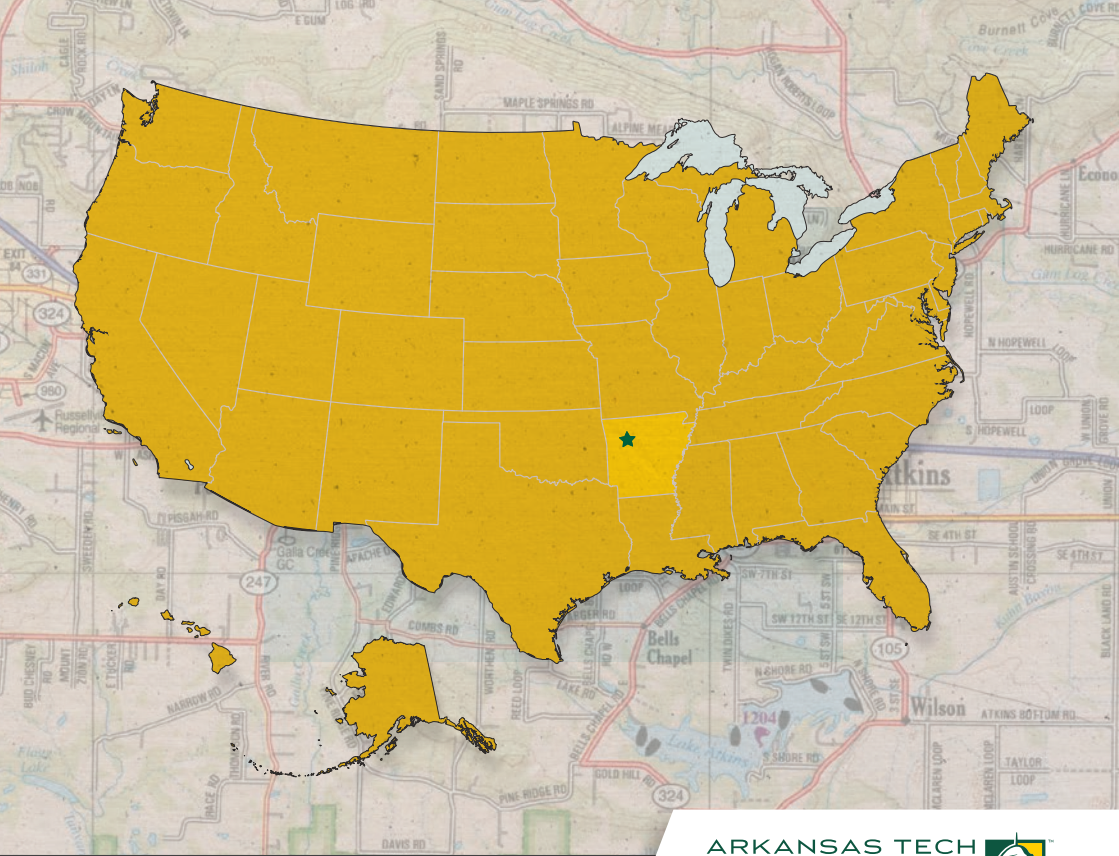
Classroom Environment

Classes range from large lectures with several hundred students to smaller classes and seminars (discussion classes) with only a few students. The American university classroom atmosphere is very dynamic. You will be expected to share your opinion, argue your point, participate in class discussions and give presentations. International students find this one of the most surprising aspects of the American education system.

Each week professors usually assign textbook and other readings. You will be expected to stay current with the required readings and homework so you can participate in class discussions and understand the lectures. Certain degree programs also require students to spend time in the laboratory.

Professors issue grades for each student enrolled in the course. Grades are usually based upon:

- + Each professor will have a unique set of class participation requirements, but students are expected to participate in class discussions, especially in seminar classes.



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This is often a very important factor in determining a student's grade.

- + A midterm examination is usually given during class time.
- + One or more research or term papers, and/or laboratory reports must be submitted for evaluation.
- + Possible short exams or quizzes are given. Sometimes professors will give an unannounced "pop quiz." These may not count heavily toward the grade, but is intended to inspire students to keep up with their assignments and attendance.
- + A final examination will be held after the final class meeting.

Credits

Each course is worth a certain number of credits or credit hours. This number is roughly the same as the number of hours a student spends in class for that course each week. A course is typically worth three to five credits.

A full-time program at most schools is 12 or 15 credit hours (four or five courses per term) and a certain number of credits must be fulfilled in order to graduate. International students are expected to enroll in a full-time program during each term.

Transfers

If a student enrolls at a new university before finishing a degree, generally most credits earned at the first school can be used to complete a degree at the new university. This means a student can transfer to another university and still graduate within a reasonable time. ★

Jennifer Privette is the Editor and Assistant Publisher of Study in the USA and StudyUSA.com.



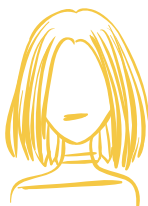
freshman

Jane begins her undergraduate studies at Highline College



sophomore

She takes many prerequisite courses and earns her associate of arts (AA) degree from Highline College. She's ready to transfer to university!



junior

She transfers to Washington State University, majoring in Marketing. She takes two quarters (one semester) of classes and realizes she would rather major in Computer Science. She meets with an advisor and officially switches majors.



senior

Jane graduates!





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TYPES OF U.S. HIGHER EDUCATION

1 STATE COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY A state school is supported and run by a state or local government. Each of the 50 U.S. states operates at least one state university and possibly several state colleges. Many of these public universities have the name of the state, or the actual word "State" in their names: for example, Washington State University and the University of Michigan.

2 PRIVATE COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY These schools are privately run as opposed to being run by a branch of the government. Tuition is usually higher at private schools than at state schools. Often, private U.S. universities and colleges are smaller in size than state schools.

Religiously affiliated universities and colleges are private schools. Nearly all these schools welcome students of all religions and beliefs. Yet, there are a percentage of schools that prefer to admit students who hold similar religious beliefs as those in which the school was founded.

3 COMMUNITY COLLEGE Community colleges are two-year colleges that award associate's degrees (transferable), as well as certifications. There are many types of associate degrees, but the most important distinguishing factor is whether or not the degree is transferable. Usually, there will be two primary degree tracks: one for academic transfer and the other prepares students to enter the workforce straightaway. University transfer degrees are generally associate of arts or associate of science. Not likely to be transferrable are the associate of applied science degrees and certificates of completion.

Community college graduates most commonly transfer to four-year colleges or universities to complete their degree. Because they can transfer the credits they earned while attending community college, they can complete their bachelor's degree program in two or more additional years. Many also offer ESL or intensive English language programs, which will prepare students for university-level courses.

If you do not plan to earn a higher degree than the associate's, you should find out if an associate's degree will qualify you for a job in your home country.

4 INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY An institute of technology is a school that provides at least four years of study in science and technology. Some have graduate programs, while others offer short-term courses.



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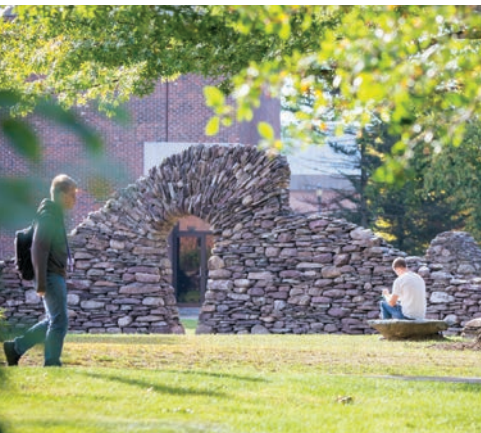
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INTERVIEW

Ashish Dakarapu from India is a graduate student majoring in Computer Science at Western Illinois University in Macomb, Illinois.

Why did you decide to study in the USA?

It is a very common dream of Indian students to study in the United States. I am among those who came here to fulfill my childhood dreams.

Why did you choose Western Illinois University?

When I was first thinking of doing a master's degree, I enquired about the course work which gave me a positive opinion about my branch (computer science). I was also told about the cost of living, which is very affordable for students and the free public transportation. Western Illinois University (WIU) is also ranked as the Best Mid-Western University by Princeton Review.

What do you like best?

I really like the course work here. The cultural activities that WIU conducts got my attention and I was happy that I could share my culture here. I also feel that the international students are really well taken care of.

How have you handled: ... finances?

My family supported me for my finances in the beginning. Later, I was able to get a job on campus and managed to take care of my expenses.

... adjusting to a different educational system?

The education system was different from ours; The grading scale is different. Every assignment or

exam adds a percentage to the final grade, which doesn't happen in India.

What are your activities?

We have an active Indian Student Organization (ISO). Also, we have many international student clubs who organize events regularly. As I love dance, I keep myself busy in participating in these events and grab all the opportunities to perform every single time.

How easy or difficult was making friends?

People here are very sweet and kind. They are always ready to help the international students. It was easy for me to make many friends as I go to lot of international gatherings.

How relevant is your U.S. education to your personal goals and to the needs of your country?

I want to go back to my country after gaining some professional experience after graduation. My plan is to set up a software industry and help in the development of my country. Having my master's degree from Western Illinois University has given me a strong educational foundation and will set me up to be successful in my goals.

What is your advice to other students who are considering a U.S. education?

I want them to know that study-



ing in the United States is not as hard as they might expect. They just need to work hard. There are challenges in everything, but once those are overcome the results will be fruitful. There might be sudden changes in terms of culture, getting used to the accent, food habits and working habits. I would encourage them to be ready for these changes and enjoy their time here. That's the key to happiness. ★

Western Illinois University (WIU)



http://www.wiu.edu/international_studies/

Located in the heart of the Midwest United States, WIU is a small residential campus located in a peaceful, safe, and friendly community. With close to 10,000 students, including 500 international students, WIU provides a rich cultural and learning experience. The accredited university offers outstanding student support before and after students arrive.



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INTERVIEW

Krishna Musunuri from India is studying for a master's degree in Computer Science at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, Arkansas.

Why did you decide to study in the USA?

I chose to study in the USA because the USA is a great country where a student can gain more knowledge theoretically and practically compared to other countries.

Why did you choose Southern Arkansas University?

It is economically suitable for both domestic and international students, and it has all kinds of facilities. Students can choose courses depending upon their interests, and there are indeed a lot of courses to choose from. Finally, the university offers affordable housing options, and there are also affordable off-campus housing options within walking distance.

What do you like best?

What I like best in my program is that I can select the courses based on my interests. Also, I like that the faculty members are always available for appointments or by email.

What was your biggest surprise?

The biggest surprise about U.S. life and education is that people in the U.S. are very friendly and kind in helping others, regardless of their age and gender.

... your biggest disappointment?

The only disappointment I feel

is I am far away from my parents, and my girlfriend.

How have you handled: ... finances?

I was lucky to get a position as a Graduate Assistant in my university, so it provides a scholarship. Therefore, I didn't experience many financial problems.

... adjusting to a different educational system?

In my opinion, this is one of the best educational systems in the world, as it is comfortable for all kinds of students and very facilitative of gaining knowledge.

What are your activities?

In my university, there are lots of activities students can. Everyday I go to the library and student activity center (gym), as well as the ISO (International Student Office). We also have International Student Association (ISA), whose mission is to help international students and organize various cultural events (festivals, concerts, etc.).

How easy or difficult was making friends?

I felt it was very easy to make friends here as people here are very friendly and helpful.

How relevant is your U.S. education to your personal goals and to the needs of your country?

My career goal is to be a software developer. I'm currently working



on my master's in Computer Science and I'm sure it will help me immensely in my career.

What is your advice to other students who are considering a U.S. education?

Don't hesitate! The U.S. is a great country for higher education and you will not regret coming here! ★

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“ It’s very good to study here at SAU because of the low tuition and the faculty is student-friendly in both online and face-to-face courses. Also, students who don’t have computer science background from their bachelor’s programs can get computer science courses at SAU to get into the master’s program. ”

Krishna Musunuri



An online search generates hundreds of competing, ranking-based service providers, some more popular than others. Rankings of colleges and universities is its own industry. Hundreds of organizations have joined the ranking game to generate sales of products and advertising revenue. Many are legitimate, some not so much, and students buying into the ranking game should understand how ranks are created and decide if those ranks reflect any value on where they should earn their higher education degree.

Popular ranking organizations include:

- Academic Ranking of World Universities
- Center for World University Rankings
- College Choice Rankings
- Fiske Guide to Colleges Best Buys
- Global Citizens for Human Rights Global University Rankings
- Princeton Review Best Colleges
- QS World University Rankings
- The Times Higher Education World University Rankings
- US News Best Grad School Rankings

There is no agreed-upon standard or set of criteria for determining rankings, and each provider has its own formula. However, if you don't know the criteria behind a ranking, how would you know that the rank-

THE UNIVERSITY RANKING GAME

SHOULD YOU PLAY IT?

BY *Robert Hassen*

ing should matter for you?

Of the above-mentioned rankings, one is partially based upon the number of patents owned by the universities. Another considers the number of alumni and staff who have received Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals. Another factors in the percentage of international faculty. One is based upon surveys with students evaluating their own schools. Another factor is the percentage of international

among many characteristics, such as academic reputation, campus environment, quality faculty, research opportunities and student diversity, just to name a few.” Educational consultant and educator at Tennessee State University, Dr. Jewel Green Winn, adds: “For First Generation families, international students, and all students facing unique challenges, they should consider the availability of services provided by the

former unit of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools)

- New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education
- Higher Learning Commission (a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools)
- Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges
- Western Association of Schools and Colleges (multiple commissions)

“A ranking should never be the deciding factor when making a final decision on where to attend. It should always be considered among many characteristics.”

—Keith E. Ramsdell, Assistant Dean and Director of Graduate Enrollment, Bowling Green State University

faculty. You should ask yourself, how much weight should these rankings have toward a decision on where to apply?

Harvard Medical School lecturer and graduate curriculum professional, Dr. R. Jason Heustis, states: “Rankings are not the only metric that you can use to determine whether a program is the right fit, the place where you will be most productive, or the environment where you will happiest.” Bowling Green State University Assistant Dean and Director of Graduate Enrollment, Keith E. Ramsdell, states: “A ranking should never be the deciding factor when making a final decision on where to attend. It should always be considered

universities, such as counseling, tutoring, and success coaching.”

Although a ranking may reflect quality, the agreed-upon mechanism for validating quality throughout the U.S. is called accreditation. In general terms, accreditation is granted after a thorough review and assessment of quality indicators by peer institutions and it validates standards of quality accepted by the other accreditation organizations. Many national, discipline-based accreditations exist but there are six regional accrediting organizations recognized throughout higher education with genuine accrediting authority:

- Middle States Commission on Higher Education (a

The bottom line is ... students wanting a university degree in the U.S. must do their homework. Play the ranking game if you want, but do not place too much emphasis on rankings. Instead, do more homework! First make sure the university is accredited, then look deeper to see if its academic program is the right fit for you. Check faculty credentials, laboratory and research facilities, the campus and surrounding community, tuition and costs of living, student services, outcomes and job placement rates. Do your homework, research your options, create your own ranking, and ... apply early! If necessary, expand your list and try again. ★

Robert Hassen is an Educational Contributor and the Manager of Graduate Recruiting at Central Michigan University.



WHAT HAPPENS ON A U.S. COLLEGE CAMPUS:

A TYPICAL DAY

BY *Jody Lehr Waite*

(VIA THE STREAM OF
CONSCIOUSNESS OF
A SECOND SEMESTER
FRESHMAN STUDENT
FROM INDIA)



7:25AM

Second time I hit the snooze. Better get up now in order to grab a coffee and donut in the dining hall on my way to my 8:00 class. Wish Dr. Barshoff didn't lock the lecture hall door right at 8 so that latecomers can slip in after the start of class. Bummer... learned that the hard way last week and missed the quiz. Note to self: no more 8am classes, even if it's a program requirement! Will shower later after kick boxing class.

7:45AM

Better text Brad, Nora, Lena and Mishkat about our group meeting at the Commons this morning at 10:00 to review the final presentation for Data Analysis 102 tomorrow. 25% of semester grade resting on this, so I want to ace it. Good thing we're all engineering students and understand the material. My roommate is in the weeds in this class, despite my help.

11:00AM

It's a wrap. Still not sure about Nora's suggestion that we wear a collared shirt instead of a 'T' to try to look professional for the presentation and the guys consider shaving. Maybe I'll shave tonight. Need to find my shirt in the laundry. Will catch an early lunch and read homework before Anthro class at 1:00. Still don't understand why a computer engineering major needs to take an anthropology course.

12:00PM

Indian food stall at the commons better this semester. Maybe that Indian student focus group last November paid off, and they understand what Indian food's really all about! Still not mum's food. Will WhatsApp mum and let her know I'm not starving but still missing her paranthas while she's still awake.

2:30PM

Kick boxing for wellness course is amazing! If all the general education requirements were this much fun, Anthro 130 wouldn't be so bad. Will stay and work out on elliptical machine and weights till physics lab at 4:00.

5:30PM

Nailed the lab quiz. Early dinner with Prasad and Jeremy back at the dining hall. Received the notification e-mail today from Residential Life about registering for housing next year. Need to talk with mum and dad about getting an apartment with the guys instead of staying in the dorms. Lots of on campus and off campus choices, so we're getting all the costs options together before the deadline. I know mum wants me to stay in the dorm.

8:00PM

Lecture tonight in Strom Auditorium featuring an alum who is a local business exec turned innovator and successful serial entrepreneur. Hope to get a question in and then introduce myself. Never too early to start

thinking about an internship. I need to contact my advisor in the career office to get me started on my resume. Maybe should have brought a copy tonight.

10:00PM

Glad Dr. Barshoff saw me at the lecture and nodded interest at my question. Maybe will help me land a research assistant job with him next year so I don't need to continue working in the library 20 hours each week. Grabbing pizza in the commons with friends from class and listen to the guitarist, then study for Barshoff's quiz tomorrow. He really encouraged the class to attend the lecture, so I'll bet he asks an extra credit question based upon tonight's lecture. Just wish it weren't at 8:00am!

2:00AM

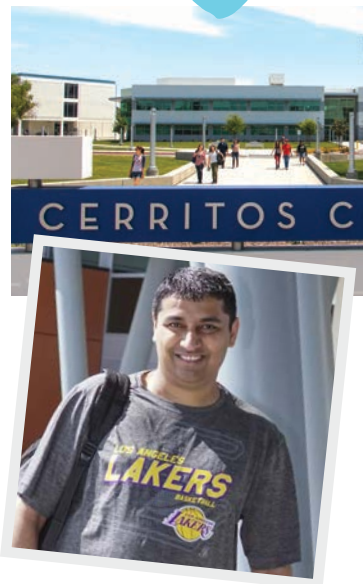
Glad I remembered the shirt for the presentation. The wrinkles won't show. Good night for now. ★

Jody Lehr Waite is the Founder of Why Wait: International Higher Education Solutions.



INTERVIEW

Chandandeep Singh Thind from India is studying Computer Science at Cerritos College in Norwalk, California.



Why did you decide to study in the USA?

I found that studying in the USA would be beneficial for me, because it has very flexible education style and one-on-one interaction between the students and the teacher.

Why did you choose Cerritos College?

My friend referred me to this college. I checked the online rating of Cerritos College and its faculty and found it to be quite impressive. I also liked the diversity on campus. This college provides many professional courses and helps students to get ready for university. The office of international students also provides a lot of amenities like free math and chemistry tutoring, computer lab, counseling, and free immigration and legal advice.

What do you like best?

What I like the best about my program and the college is the excellent faculty. I like the flexible education style; you can change your major any time if you really need to. The best thing I like here is that whenever I experienced any challenge, the whole staff of office of international students stood by me and gave me moral, mental and academic support.

What was your biggest surprise?

I think the biggest surprise for me was the freedom of speech and expression. There is no formality, which gives you a chance to express your views more independently.

How have you handled: ... finances?

My best advice is to save enough money before coming here. Also, my parents are helping me financially sometimes. The college also provides many opportunities to apply for merit-based scholarships, which really help to manage the financial expenses to some extent.

... adjusting to a different educational system?

The initial transition stage was really challenging, but my international counselor and professors assisted me.

What are your activities?

I always kept myself engaged in various activities and used on-campus resources including library, student success center, free tutoring, study groups, regular interaction with professors and joined various clubs like Math club, Veteran club, International Students Association, Speech club, etc.

How easy or difficult was making friends?

It is quite easy to make new friends. American people are very friendly and easy-going. The best way to contact new people is to join clubs and engage in community volunteer services.

How relevant is your U.S. education to your personal goals and to the needs of your country?

I always hoped to one-day run a successful web design business in

India. I want to give back to the society that raised me. The U.S., especially Silicon Valley, is the hub of IT industry that I would like to be involved with to gain experience to move up higher on the ladder of success in my profession.

What is your advice to other students who are considering a U.S. education?

My advice would be that the learning is just not limited to the classroom. You can learn from your experiences outside of the classroom. If you want to get a quality higher education, in a very comfortable environment, then Cerritos college is the best place to be in. ✨



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INTERVIEW

Haywards David from India is a graduate student majoring in Applied Exercise Physiology at Mississippi College in Clinton, Mississippi.

Why did you decide to study in the USA?

It is just because of God's Favor. I completed my bachelor in physical therapy from India and was looking for a master's degree from a renowned Christian institute that could give me a new expansion in my knowledge.

Why did you choose Mississippi College?

This is a Christian institution with a high Christian value, which is of prime importance for me. Mississippi is known for hospitality and people are kind and helpful.

What do you like best?

The teachers and professors have a rich experience in the field of study. All of them have a Ph.D. in kinesiology and related fields. Some subjects I took gave me immense knowledge. Apart from education, the values I got in this institution and guidance from teachers is valuable for me.

What was your biggest surprise?

Changing the time during daylight saving time was quite a surprise and the grading system of school is little different from what I had in India.

How have you handled: ... language differences?

Initially, it was tough for me to speak in English but by God's grace and by talking more with

American students, sharing about my country and gaining knowledge about this country, helped me a lot in terms of language.

... finances?

I would say if you are ready to adjust with everything that comes it's never difficult. I feel that Mississippi is the most affordable state in the entire U.S.

... adjusting to a different educational system?

It took some time for me but people here are very hospitable and helpful.

How easy or difficult was making friends?

If you carry a smile on your face with a humble attitude nothing is impossible. The same principle applies if you want to make friends in the USA.

How relevant is your U.S. education to your personal goals and to the needs of your country?

I want to serve the community with my knowledge in kinesiology, health and fitness. The education I received in the USA helps me to understand the various aspects of health and fitness and the methods to promote health in society as well as in my country.

What is your advice to other students who are considering a U.S. education?



My advice would be to come with an expectation to learn not only academics but also from different cultures around the world. Get excited, because there are so many positive things that you will experience here. Prepare to be blessed and be a blessing to others around you. Don't worry about Indian food there are good Indian restaurants and families here. God bless you. 🌟



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ENGINEERING

THE FUTURE

BY *Jennifer Privette*



There are many unique answers when posing the question of “How?” How does this chair hold me up? How is that I can talk on my cell phone or chat on the Internet with someone across the world? How did this water in my glass become clean? Although the answer to each of these questions is unique, there is one simple explanation for all of these questions: engineering.

No matter where you are in the world, the evidence of engineering is universal. Today, engineers are developing solutions and building the latest technologies for everything from smart phones to solving the world’s most dire problems. The rapid pace of technology and the scarcity of natural resources have made the demand for engineers greater than ever.

The motivation to pursue an engineering degree may differ from student to student. For some, it is the desire to have a successful and profitable career. Others want to bring advancement and a better future to their communities. Then, there are students who are drawn to the field because they are naturally curious about how things work.

Your motivation may be unique, but your ambition to study engineering in the USA is not. Every year, more and more international students come to the United States to pursue undergraduate, graduate and doctorate engineering degrees. According to the 2015/16 Open Doors Report **216,932** international students were enrolled in U.S. engineering programs. It is one of the most popular fields of study among international students.

You may choose to study engineering for humanitarian reasons or because you desire a financially successful career, but no matter your reasoning, know that your talents are in high-demand and you have the ability to change the world. ★

Jennifer Privette is the editor and assistant publisher of Study in the USA magazines and StudyUSA.com.

“Our modern society is firmly based on the use of technology. Engineers in all disciplines are vital to the design, development, and improvement of the technology that drives our modern global society. Basically, without engineers, everything technological comes to a standstill. Increasingly, agriculture, transportation, manufacturing, communication, medicine, and all other fundamental aspects of our complex global society are dependent on the knowledge and skills of trained engineers.”

—**Kenneth Schroeder, Engineering Department Coordinator and Professor at Pierce College**

“After finishing my associate degree at Pierce College, I transferred to University of Washington Seattle and, in two more years, graduated with a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering. My classes at Pierce prepared me well for my studies at University of Washington—I felt especially ready in physics and engineering. Studying at Pierce College was a great first step in my professional preparation.”

—**Piseth Horth, an international student from Cambodia**

“Speaking English fluently is essential in the chemical engineering field in Brazil. Learning how to deal with different people from different cultures is also good.”

—**Roberta Alves Medina, from the Instituto Federal de Educação, Ciência e Tecnologia da Bahia, studied Chemical Engineering at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey**

“It was a unique opportunity to study in one of the world’s best universities. I would be able to maintain close contact with competitive educational systems closely related to technology and innovation.”

—**Raphael Lucas Vidotti, from Centro Universitario da FEI, studied Civil Engineering at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey**

Alfred State, State University of New York College of Technology – Mechanical Engineering Technology Program

At Alfred State, the next generation of engineers get plenty of hands-on experiences designing, specifying, testing, analyzing, and installing mechanical systems. They also work with engines, complete energy systems, compressors, fans, pumps, controls, and much more.

At Alfred State, a lot of applied learning happens outside of the classroom, too. For example, students regularly compete and display their skills in a number of national intercollegiate competitions, including the annual Basic Utility Vehicle (BUV) Design Competition. The contest is a combination of a race and a manufacturing design

competition.

Working in teams, college and university students from all over the U.S. build a BUV, which is a simple, rugged vehicle that is affordably designed for use in developing countries. Students must then take the vehicles through a series of tests designed to challenge the vehicles engineering, design and durability.

“The project is in line with Alfred State’s emphasis on project-based learning, where a real-world challenge is presented and students have to address it,” says Dr. Edward Tezak, SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor and former Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Technology

Department chair.

For building a highly efficient pumping system, which was almost twice as fast as any other team’s, Alfred State was recognized with the Most Innovative Award in the event.

In the most recent competition, the Alfred State BUV Team came out on top in the event for the third time, tying with Purdue University for first place. In addition to its three first-place finishes, Alfred State’s BUV team has also come in second four times since first entering the competition in 2006.

“We all chipped in and did what we had to do to finish the competition,” said Mitchell Rogers, a mechanical engineering technology student from New York.

As a result of the skills, knowledge, and experiences that Alfred State’s Mechanical Engineering Technology students receive, graduates are prepared to be mechanical technologists and technicians for industry in engineering related areas.

“We have been very impressed with their [students’] work ethic, knowledge base, and ability to contribute to our engineering team in a meaningful way—right away,” says Jennifer C. Gnage, PHR Human Resources Manager at Oxbo International Corporation.

Tip

At **Edmonds Community College**, I chose to major in engineering, which I’m not sure if I would have been able to choose in France. The system [in France] doesn’t offer the same possibilities and resources like there are here in the USA.

At Edmonds Community College, the courses I took were very interesting and not just theoretical. The classes are small enough that you can get to know your teachers and they are always available for their students. One of them helped me realize that graphic engineering is what I want to study, so now I’m not going back to France.”

—Mathilde Idoine from France is completing her Associate in Science Degree with an Aeronautical Engineering track at Edmonds Community College in Edmonds, Washington

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CHOOSING A
BUSINESS
PROGRAM
IN THE UNITED STATES

BY Lindy Kraviec

Nearly 975,000 students from other countries enrolled in U.S. colleges and universities during the 2014-15 academic year—an increase of 10 percent over the previous year, according to the Institute of International Education (IIE). Of these students, approximately 20 percent came to the U.S. to pursue a business degree.

“The frontier of business research and training takes place at the top universities in the U.S.,” says Dr. Shan Yan, assistant professor of finance in the Sigmund Weis School of Business at Susquehanna University.

The American business community has a strong influence in the global economy. It makes sense to get a business education in the United States, where you will also have opportunities that don't exist at schools in your home country.

For example, many U.S. undergraduate business programs offer a valuable combination of classroom business theory and real-world business case studies, a focus on specific areas of business, and the chance to obtain internships at some of the most competitive companies in the world.

“Innovative business models are also being created in U.S. markets. When you combine the academic training with exposure to the real market, you can see how valuable U.S. business training is for international students,” explains Yan.

There are more than 4,700 degree-granting institutions in the United States. Some offer two-year associate degree pro-

grams, while others are four-year colleges and universities that award bachelor's degrees.

The question is, how can you narrow down all of those choices to find the school that is right for you? Here are several things to consider:

Location—think about more than East Coast or West Coast.

The U.S. is a huge country, with much geographic, demographic and climate diversity. You may want to select a school that allows you to experience all four seasons of weather, or one that provides endless summer. You may prefer a school in a vibrant metropolitan area, or one in a charming small town. But you should also think about whether you want to study at a large public university, a tiny private college, or somewhere in between. Is it important to have small class sizes where you can easily interact with other students and your professor, or are you comfortable in larger class settings?

Remember, while you are a student in the U.S. you will have the opportunity to travel and explore many areas of the country. But in selecting an American school, consider how the location might impact your program.

As a business major, you may want to choose a college or university that is relatively close to financial centers such as Chicago or New York City, and one that has a proven track record of helping students network with professionals in their field. The opportunity to shadow a business

student tip

The network you build throughout your college career will continue to be there even decades after you graduate.

—Hendrik van der Zandt from Germany: Studying Finance and International Business at Marquette University

professional for a day, or actually work in a corporate setting as an intern is priceless.

After graduation, your international student visa allows you to work in the U.S. for one year to gain practical experience. With your American business degree, you can gain experience in almost any industry, working for one of the leading companies in the world!

Look for specialized coursework delivered by faculty mentors.

Although many U.S. business schools offer degrees in general business management, most give you the opportunity to specialize in specific areas of business, such as finance, accounting, marketing, or even global management, entrepreneurship or luxury-brand management. These programs also allow you to gain a well-rounded education through elective courses that include world languages, math and sciences, social studies, literature and the arts. You will not only graduate with a business degree, but also a wealth of knowledge

that will boost your ability to think critically across many disciplines, a skill that employers value.

You should not underestimate the importance of faculty in American business schools. Professors are trained from top universities and can deliver the most up-to-date information to students explains Dr. Yan. They are not only professors, but also researchers and mentors.

Professors schedule regular

interest you, it's a good idea to read the curriculum vitae of faculty members who teach in your area of specialization. You'll find out more about their educational background and research interests, and gain insight into what you might learn from them.

Accreditation sets schools apart.

How do you know if a business school meets the highest standard of excellence? Look for accreditation from AACSB International.

rapidly changing global economy. Within six months of graduation, 98 percent of Susquehanna's business school graduates are either employed or accepted into graduate school.

"My family always believed that getting an education in the U.S. would set me apart from my peers ..." says international student, Busisiwe L. Chapula.

Chapula came to Susquehanna University from her native Zambia. Preparing to graduate

"MY FAMILY ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT GETTING AN EDUCATION IN THE U.S. WOULD SET ME APART FROM MY PEERS ..." —Busisiwe L. Chapula, international student

office hours when students can consult with them one-on-one to review coursework or discuss career plans. They will advise you of internship opportunities, and help you complete applications for employment or graduate school. As they get to know you, they will serve as your advocate, writing you letters of recommendation and connecting you with others who can help you succeed.

Susquehanna University accounting student, John Martone, owes his current internship to such advocacy. His advisor, Associate Professor of Accounting Jerry Habegger, connected him with an alumnus who directed him towards PricewaterhouseCooper's recruiting department. Now Martone interns with their office in Manhattan, assisting with corporate tax returns and research into potential clients.

As you search websites of colleges and universities that in-

The longest-serving association dedicated to advancing management education worldwide, AACSB accredits 775 of the world's best business schools in 52 countries and territories.

AACSB accreditation ensures that the school follows a rigorous curriculum taught by highly qualified faculty, and that it undergoes continuous assessment and improvement.

Susquehanna University

Susquehanna University is one of few undergraduate colleges to have earned AACSB accreditation. Demanding coursework built on a solid liberal arts foundation gives Susquehanna business students what they need to succeed.

In addition, a required Global Opportunities program lets students embrace other cultures through study abroad experiences, and learn how to adapt to a

with her degree in accounting in spring 2017, Chapula says she chose Susquehanna because of its size and close proximity to the business centers of Philadelphia, New York City and Washington, D.C. Although location wasn't the only factor.

"What I like most about attending college here is how much I've learned outside of the classroom," says Chapula. "For example, I learned how to expand my network, create and perfect my résumé, and how to speak effectively in front of people."

Now that she is ready to graduate with her American business degree, Chapula, like many other graduates, is confident that she will have outstanding opportunities in her home country—or anywhere else in the world she may choose to live and work. ★

Lindy Kravec is a freelance writer based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Welcome to GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE *in beautiful Southern California, USA*



Glendale Community College (GCC) is one of the leading community colleges in the California two-year system. GCC is fully accredited with one of the highest transfer rates to four-year institutions. Complete your first two years at Glendale, then transfer to UCLA, USC, California State University, Loyola Marymount, or the university of your choice.

Other Highlights:

- 600 International students from 60 countries; 4% of student population.
- 75 academic majors leading to the Associate in Arts or Associate in Science degrees.
- Full-time international student staff for admission, academic and immigration advising, and new student orientation.
- Small classes, modern buildings and computer labs; and dedicated faculty instructors.
- Flexible admission and enrollment schedule (Fall and Spring Semesters) with minimum 45 iBT TOEFL or 4.5 'band score' on IELTS. "Credit ESL" English instruction is available to accepted students as part of their Degree program.
- The City of Glendale is ranked as one of the safest communities in the U.S. with easy access to major Hollywood studios, beaches of Los Angeles, and surrounding communities.

Popular Academic Majors:

- Animation & Design, Arts, Aviation (with Flight Attendant), Biology, Business Administration, Communications, Computer Science & Information Systems, Culinary Arts, English, Hotel/Restaurant Management, Mathematics, Sciences, Technology, Television Production, Theatre Arts.



Truckee Meadows Community College - Logistics Management Program

Truckee Meadows Community College's (TMCC) Logistics Management Program is designed to educate both career professionals who are seeking to re-skill or increase their skill set for promotion and for incoming students who are seeking to obtain a degree in a growing exciting field—Logistics management is expected to grow by 35 percent in the next five to 10 years.

Logistics is about getting the right product to the right place at the right time at the right price. Logisticians handle products and services from cradle to cradle, sourcing raw materials, coordinating their delivery for manufacture, delivering the product to the consumer and making sure that the product is delivered in a way that supports company strategy.

With a focus on theoretical instruction with real world application, graduates have the ability to take what they've learned in the classroom and implement it upon graduation. Students are prepared for popular careers as an Analyst, International Logistics Manager, Supply Chain Manager, Logistics Manager and Transportation Manager, among many others.

Logistics degrees offer flexibility and capabilities that are widely transferable. Truckee Meadows Logistics Management Program students can graduate with a Certificate, Associate of Applied Science (AAS), Associate of Arts (AA) or Bachelors of Applied Science (BAS) degree and professional certification from APICS.



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MBA PROGRAMS



If you are an international student or professional seeking an MBA you should consider the United States. American MBA programs are world renowned for giving students a competitive edge in the business world through excellent education, diverse specialized programs and unparalleled networking opportunities and resources.

There are over a thousand MBA programs in the U.S. You will find an array of options to fit just about any need—from specialized degrees to unique programs geared toward international students.

Diversity of MBA programs

One of the reasons thousands of international students enroll in MBA programs in the United States is because of the diversity of choices and concentrations. Graduate business students can focus their master's degree in finance, accounting, entrepreneurship, marketing, business management, supply chain management, global business and so many more. We live in a global market and it is growing. Gaining fresh knowledge and expertise in one area of business will meet an economic need and make you more professionally competitive. Furthermore, an American MBA will show that you have international knowledge and experience.

Regardless of degree specialty, most American business schools will train you in the principles of general business management. These principles include a combination of accounting, economics, finance, marketing,

ethics and statistics.

Theory in Practice

At every level, the American higher education system is different. Foundational principles and theories must be taught, but they are only mastered through practice. MBA programs in the United States strongly reflect this teaching philosophy. You will examine real-world case studies and business scenarios in order to devise strategies, business plans, budgets, etc. These types of projects will prepare you for real-life business situations and to approach them with practical knowledge.

"In logistics management class, we had case studies to discuss: Ford company, HP, Ralph Lauren, and so on. We assumed that we were managers and analyzed the problems and solutions. We applied strategies that we learned from the textbook to solve problems. This is a very good part," explains Boonpa Ing-Anuraksakul, from Thailand, studying Logistics Management at Truckee Meadows Community College in Reno, Nevada.

The majority of MBA programs will have an internship requirement. Internships are an excellent way to really explore your future career and apply your studies. The companies for which you intern are thriving businesses and you will be working in a fast-paced environment. They will have professional expectations of you.

While internships provide you with a practical learning environment, they are also a prime setting for networking. Networking

"I would like to become an accountant that focuses on internal control. Due to globalization, you have to speak at least one major language fluently. I chose to study in the USA to help me learn English fluently."

—Juri Adrianto, from Indonesia, an MBA student in Information Systems at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, New Jersey

is one of the most powerful tools for your career. While you are an intern, take advantage of the opportunity to meet and network with current professionals. They may help you get a job or be your future colleagues.

"An internship is a requirement in my curriculum. I believe this is helpful because the college encourages students to apply the skills outside the classroom and develop experience in the real world before graduating," says Heejoong Kim, from Korea, studying Management and Marketing at Loyola University New Orleans.

An internship will not only give you valuable experience, you will find that having a reputable American company listed on your resume will be invaluable.

"When I graduate with my MBA, I will be competing in a very global job market. Having experience interacting with people from different cultures I believe will give me an edge in the professional world," stated Juri Adrianto, from Indonesia, an MBA student in Information Systems at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, New Jersey. ★

HOW TO CHOOSE AN MBA PROGRAM THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU



1) **Think about the kind of academic focus that is important to you**

By identifying your personal and career goals you'll help refine the list of schools. You will have a better idea of the educational features and offerings that best suit your needs. Do you want a general MBA degree, or a program tailored toward a specific career goal?

If you aspire to a career in a specific industry you may consider the school's location. Most MBA programs have relationships with local businesses and community business leaders. Therefore, attending certain schools may provide you with extensive networking opportunities and job prospects within your chosen field. New York City, for example, is one of the major banking and financial centers of the world, while the San Francisco Bay Area is home to many leading technology companies.

2) **Identify schools that offer programs and services specifically geared toward international students**

Before beginning your application process determine which schools offer special enrollment programs for international students. Most American MBA programs are open to students with a bachelor's degree from a four-year university in the United States, or an equivalent degree from another country. If you attended a three-year university, you may need to complete preparatory courses in order to enroll in certain MBA programs. Golden Gate University, for example, offers a preparatory program called Bridge that

allows international students to enroll in graduate study without completing a second bachelor's degree.

Many U.S. schools also offer special services to help international students ease into their new academic environments. Along with academics, admissions and advising services for international students (and their dependents) can support integration into the local community. Some schools offer flexible admissions policies.

Please be aware of services and programs that help international students connect with each other, find roommates, and assist with immigration and visa issues. Be sure you know how much guidance you will receive regarding academic and career topics, as well as adjusting to the new academic environment.

3) **Look for programs that fit into your lifestyle**

Many international students want to capitalize on their time earning an MBA in the United States by experiencing American culture. When you research an MBA program look at the school's location, as well. Find out about the area, its recreational activities, arts and entertainment programs, historical and sightseeing opportunities.

4) **Follow your dream!**

International students are an important resource for American students; you provide a global perspective that is becoming increasingly important in our shrinking world. With such a wide range of programs available, you are sure to find a program that will give you the training and contacts to reach your goals.

PRE-MBA PROGRAMS

A pre-MBA program is an excellent way to promote success in an MBA program. First, you can improve your English and your performance on the TOEFL and GMAT. More importantly, you can develop business, academic and cultural skills that are valuable in an MBA program.

Susquehanna University

Susquehanna University, a premier liberal arts and sciences university in central Pennsylvania, is one of the few undergraduate business programs in the world to earn AACSB accreditation. Susquehanna University's *Sigmund Weis School of Business* maintains a highly qualified faculty, a rigorous curriculum, and continuous assessment and improvement processes.

Students benefit from the faculty's real-world experience in the classroom with business plan competitions, an investment laboratory with Bloomberg terminals, and visits to businesses and nonprofits in New York City, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.

The Bloomberg computer terminals

give students experience with real-world tools that most business undergraduates at other institutions don't encounter. That experience provides Susquehanna graduates an advantage when competing for their first job out of college.

In addition, 90 percent of Susquehanna students complete a professional experience, such as internships or research, while enrolled. Susquehanna's 18,000-member, global alumni network provides many of these professional opportunities to students. In fact, alumni from renowned international companies visit campus regularly to judge student presentations, speak as guest lecturers, and seek out prospective interns and employees.

Through the structure of Susquehanna's curriculum and the incorporation of real-world projects and internships, students can begin their career upon graduation or pursue an MBA. *Sigmund Weis School of Business* students gain leadership experience, effective communication skills and opportunities to work in teams— all vital qualities for MBA schools. ★



A photograph of two young women sitting at a table outdoors, laughing joyfully. The woman on the left has dark curly hair and is wearing a red top with white patterns. The woman on the right has long blonde hair and is wearing a blue patterned shirt over a pink top. The background shows a blurred outdoor setting with a metal railing.

GETTING YOUR STUDENT VISA

BY *William Fish*

Here are some guidelines to help make your student visa application process smooth and successful.

Getting your visa to study in the United States takes time but can be a surprisingly easy procedure. It is well worth the effort. In many countries, the number of student visas issued by the United States has grown significantly in the last year.

While the application process for an international student or exchange visitor visa can be confusing, hundreds of thousands of students are able to meet the requirements for a visa each year.

Last year 471,712 F-1 student visas were issued and there are currently 1,208,074 million students in the United States on F and M visas!

After a college, university, or English language school has accepted you for admission to full-time study, the school will send you a document called an I-20 form, which is the application for an F-1 visa.

If you will be an Exchange Visitor, the organization or U.S. Government agency that is sponsoring you will send you a DS-2019 form, which is for a J-1 visa.

You can visit the website of the United States Embassy or Consulate in your country at

usembassy.gov to read about Nonimmigrant Visas. Go to the section on visas and read about the correct procedure currently in place for Nonimmigrant Visas.

1 FIRST, your school or university will send you a form confirming that you have been accepted at an institution authorized by the U.S. Citizenship and Naturalization Service (USCIS) to enroll non-immigrant students (the I-20 for an F-1 visa or the DS-2019 for a J-1 visa). You will read and sign this form.

Be careful to make sure that the name and spelling on your passport is consistent with the name and spelling on your application for acceptance to the school. You must also make sure that the school has entered your name as it appears on your passport on the I-20 or DS-2019 Form.

All applicants' names have to be submitted for a security clearance. Citizens of some countries and students who will study certain subjects at a university have to undergo additional screenings that take several additional weeks of processing. It is crucial that you allocate plenty of time for the visa application process.

6 TIPS FOR YOUR VISA INTERVIEW

- + Wear a business suit or dress
- + Be specific when you answer questions
- + Bring bank statements or proof of employment
- + Provide details of your study plans
- + Stay calm and be professional
- + Tell the truth

Once a visa is approved, you should receive your visa within a few days.

2 SECOND, you will need to make an appointment for a visa interview and to pay some required fees. Student visas can be issued up to 120 days before the starting date of your program stated on your form I-20. Exchange Visitor Visas can be issued any time before the date on the DS-2019. You should apply as early as possible for your visa.

Each U.S. Embassy has a website providing instructions on how to make an appointment for a visa interview and other information on the visa application process. The website for the Embassy in

Last Year 471,712 F-1 Student visas were issued and there are currently 1,208,074 million students in the United States on F and M visas!

your country can be located at usembassy.gov.

Another website (<https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/general/wait-times.html/>) can also tell you the expected wait time for a visa in your country. International student visa applicants should receive priority by the embassy or consulate. So, if your academic program begins soon, be sure to explain this when applying for your visa.

You may wish to visit or contact the nearest U.S. Department of State-affiliated EducationUSA advising center office in your country. They are located throughout the world and listed at educationusa.info/centers.php. The staff at these centers will be able to offer guidance and explain where to pay the visa fees and how to schedule your interview.

There is a US\$200 fee for F and M visa applicants, \$180 for most J Visa applicants, which supports the cost of the computer system used to record your stay in the United States (SEVIS). You can pay this fee with an internationally valid credit card. Go to <https://fmj-fee.com/index.html> to pay, and make sure you print a copy of your receipt. You must pay the SEVIS fee at least three days before the date of your visa interview. Bring a copy of your receipt to your visa interview.

You will also need to pay an additional US\$160 for the visa application fee. Payment

can be made in your country at the U.S. Embassy, Consulate, or at a bank that the embassy designates. Specific information on where to pay the visa application fee can be found at the website of the U.S. Embassy in your country.

3 THIRD, the United States is using a new non-immigrant visa application form, DS-160, that should be completed online. This form replaces all of the other forms. Instructions for completing the form and links to the form can be found at <https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/>

Complete the DS-160 form online completely. Again, remember to use the exact same order and spelling of your names as listed in your passport. Then you will print out the completed form and bring it with you to the Embassy when you go for your visa interview.

You will upload your photo while completing the online Form DS-160. Your photo must be in the format explained in the Photograph Requirements section: <https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/general/photos/digital-image-requirements.html>

If the upload of your photo fails, you must bring the photo with you when you go for your interview.

4 FOURTH, prepare for your visa interview. It is extremely crucial that you apply for your visa well in advance

of the date your studies begin. If possible, apply three or four months before the starting date of your program. This will give you extra time if there are delays at the embassy, or if you wish to appeal a decision in the event of a denial.

What you wear is important. Consider the interview a formal event. Business attire is appropriate. First impressions can be crucial, since there will be little time to speak with the officer, who will often have only a few minutes to conduct the interview and make a decision.

Be prepared to give your information quickly and completely. If you are unable to answer the questions in English, and the visa officer does not speak your language, you can ask for an interpreter. Speaking English is not a requirement for a student visa. In fact, thousands of students come to the United States each year to learn how to speak English.

The visa officer needs to know your specific objectives, both academic and professional, for studying in the United States. Be prepared to explain why it is better to study your specific field in the United States than to study at home. Be ready to say exactly what you will study and for what career your U.S. studies will prepare you. Calmly state your education plans concisely and clearly.

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a degree, you must be able to explain your complete program of study. Remember, it is not enough to just say, "It is better to study in the United States." Give valid reasons why it is better for you. Visa officers like to hear honest, direct responses to questions. They generally react poorly to applicants who give vague answers, memorize a speech, or make overly solicitous comments about how great and wonderful the United States is.

You should also be able to explain in detail why you chose to study at a specific school and be able to give information about that school and where you will live (dormitory, host family or apartment).

If you will return home to complete university studies after studying English in the United States, bring proof of your student status in your country. A letter from a university professor supporting your study plan can be helpful. Young people around the world are often unsure of their plans. However, in the visa interview it is best to give definite answers. If you seem to be unsure about what you will be doing, the visa officer may believe that you are really going to the United States for reasons other than education.

Grades do make a difference. If your marks are below average, be ready to provide an explanation on how you are going to succeed in the United

States. A letter from a school director, teacher, or from your U.S. admitting school stating that the proposed program of study in the United States makes sense and explaining your good prospects for success can be helpful. If there were special circumstances (such as a death or illness in the immediate family) that contributed to the poor grades, have the school explain those special circumstances.

The U.S. Department of State (DOS) has implemented an online tool that nonimmigrant and immigrant visa applicants can use to check the status of their application: <https://ceac.state.gov/CEAC-StatTracker/Status.aspx>

Financing

You must have adequate, demonstrable financial support to live and study in the United States. Visa applications are generally stronger if the financial support comes from family, employers, or other institutional sponsors located in your home country.

If your parents will pay for your education, bring documents that show how your family earns its income. Bring a letter from your parents' employers stating what they do, how long they have worked at those organizations, and how much they earn.

When visa officers see information that is contradictory or does not make sense, they do

WHAT HAS CHANGED?

It is easier to say what hasn't changed. Visas to study in the United States are still being issued. Universities, boarding schools and English language programs are still welcoming international students from any country.

Visa officers are giving increased scrutiny to all visa applicants. This simply means that you need to make sure you are well prepared for your visa interview. Be sure to follow the suggestions in the accompanying article. You should be able to explain in the very brief visa interview why you want to study in the United States, what you will study and how this will prepare you for work in your country when you finish your studies. You need to be able to explain why you applied to the school that has accepted you and how you will pay for your studies and living expenses.

Wait times for interviews and visa issuance may be longer so it is especially important to apply for your visa as far in advance as possible. Student visas can be issued as early as 120 days before you start your program.



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not grant visas. If your family can only show enough income to support you in the United States, not leaving funds for expenses they will incur at home, the officer will become suspicious.

Large sums of money in bank accounts may not be sufficient proof of financial support. When providing information about your bank accounts, ask someone at your bank for a letter that states how long the account has existed and what the average balance in the account has been. That should convince the visa officer that you and your family have a long and stable history of business at the bank.

“Intent to Return”

Most student and exchange visitor visa applications are approved. The most common reason for an application to be denied is that the person applying for the visa has not proven to the visa officer that they will return to their country upon completing their studies in the USA. This rule is called Section 214.b.

To determine your “intent

to return” home, the visa officer will ask you a series of questions about your connections to your home country and about your study plans. Again, you will have to demonstrate to the officer that your family has the ability to pay for the first year of your proposed stay in the United States and that you have realistic plans to finance the remainder of your education.

You must have all of the required forms with you including your I-20 or DS-2019, the DS-160 form and the SEVIS payment receipt. You should bring any documents to demonstrate how you will pay for your education and why you will return to your country. Some examples of such documents are previous passports showing travel abroad, bank or salary statements, family documents or student records.

If all else fails...

If you are denied a visa there may be something you can do to reverse the denial. You may appeal the decision. In most cases, you will need to provide

additional documentation that was not presented with the initial application. In some cases, a visa officer may request additional documents like proof of employment, or ownership of a home or business. You should respond with the information requested.

A fax or email from your U.S. school to the embassy or consulate in your city containing details about your qualifications, and requesting reconsideration, can be helpful in pursuing a successful appeal. Faxes should be addressed to the Chief of Nonimmigrant Visas at the Consular post in question. Fax and telephone numbers are available on the page of the Embassy or Consulate where you will apply for the visa on the Department of State web site at usembassy.state.gov. Look under “Contact Us.” ★

William Fish meets regularly with U.S. Consular Affairs Officers in Washington, D.C. and in overseas embassies and consulates. He is President of the Washington International Education Council, which promotes international educational exchange. He can be contacted at wfish@washcouncil.org, www.washcouncil.org.

The USA issues different types of visas to students:

A full-time student would receive an **F-1** or **M-1** visa.

Your spouse and children would receive **F-2** or **M-2** visas.

An Exchange Visitor would receive a **J-1** visa. Exchange Visitors come to the USA for consultation, training, research or teaching, or for an approved Au Pair or temporary work position.



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STUDENT GOVERNMENT

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW AS AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

BY *Raghvendra Singh*

For international students planning to pursue higher education in the United States, it is an important consideration to build on extra-curricular experience. Such experience would not only enhance their cultural perspective but would also give them an opportunity to network and develop their communication skills. One such perfect opportunity for international students is getting involved

which has the executive, judicial and legislative branches to overlook the functioning of the government, although some schools may also follow the parliamentary format. In either format, students are given the opportunity to run for the open position and much like a democratic process have to garner enough votes from fellow students to be elected to their interested position. Reaching out to fellow students and being able to connect with them on is-

sus among various members to get policy accomplished. Transferable skills that are learned through the participation in the student government certainly go a long way for international students in building their professional image.

In the end, there are many reasons to become a part of the student government from working with a team of diverse participants to developing leadership and communication skills and to

TRANSFERABLE SKILLS THAT ARE LEARNED THROUGH THE PARTICIPATION IN THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT CERTAINLY GO A LONG WAY FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN BUILDING THEIR PROFESSIONAL IMAGE.

in the student government body in their college.

The idea of a student government is embedded in the larger perspective of a democratic republic, where students from different demographics can share their concerns about issues surrounding them in the college environment. Even though the internal structure and working of the student government may differ from the size of the institution, it often resembles the structure of the U.S. Government

issues surrounding the student body certainly adds value in perspective to an international student who maybe relatively new to the U.S. academic environment.

Contrary to the general thinking, the experience of being involved in a student government body is not just beneficial to political science or pre-law majors, but provides international students the opportunity to work in a team environment through balancing budgets as well as coordinating a consen-

expand on professional development experience. However, it also provides a valuable opportunity to share with other domestic students the perspective of an international student and the challenges and issues faced by that group of students in their day to day academic life on campus. ★

Raghvendra (Ragh) Singh is Assistant Director of International Recruitment & Admissions at the University of Missouri at Columbia.



HOW TO BE COMPETITIVE FOR UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

BY *Richard O'Rourke*



According to the IIE Open Doors Report (2015), only eight percent of international undergraduate students relied on U.S. university scholarships as their primary source of funding last year, meaning that the university covered most or all of their tuition and living costs.

However, many other international undergraduates received smaller merit-based scholarships to cover a portion of their costs. These students come from around the world and bring diverse cultural perspectives to university campuses.

However, these students do share some common characteristics that make them more competitive for both admissions and scholarship programs.

Grades and Test Scores

Most universities will look at your high school grades and ACT or SAT scores as a way to predict how well you will perform in college. Even when the ACT or SAT is optional for admission, one of these tests will usually be required for scholarship consideration. It is common practice among U.S. colleges to quantify grades and test scores in order to shortlist merit-based scholarship candidates. Keeping your GPA in the top 25 percent of your high school class and achieving competitive standardized test scores can make the difference when it comes to scholarships.

High School Curriculum

The most selective scholarship

programs will also look at your grades and test scores in the context of how challenged you were in high school. A student with strong grades and test scores, for example, may not be as attractive to a scholarship committee as another student who participated in more challenging coursework and activities during high school. Advanced coursework and extracurricular activities can provide more compelling evidence that you are ready for the challenges of college life beyond the regular high school curriculum.

Recommendation Letters

Scholarship committees will typically refer to your counselor and teacher recommendation letters to learn more about you and verify that information in your application is accurate. Be sure to choose counselors and teachers that know you best when asking for these letters. A good recommendation letter will address your unique qualities, emphasize any challenges you may have faced, and explain how you overcame failures. In addition, your counselor or teacher should reference any achievements you may have mentioned in your application.

Personal Statements and Interviews

Selective admissions and scholarship programs will want to make sure that you are a 'good match' with the campus environment. The personal statement is your chance to explain your background, interests, and future

goals as they relate to the academic environment and mission of the institution. Research the college or university that you are applying to, and then practice writing about yourself in relation to what you learned about the campus. You may also need to interview with a scholarship committee over the phone. Practice communicating your personal statement in an interview format. Common personal statement and interview questions include:

- Describe a person you admire.
- What makes you successful?
- How do you deal with failure?
- How will this university help you achieve your future goals?

Early Application and Interest

Waiting until the final application deadline, or applying late, will not help you win scholarships. Colleges and universities often give scholarship preference to early applicants because these students appear to be the most interested and likely to enroll. Students who reach out to staff and faculty early in the process can also gain advantages. Scholarship committees may even record the timeliness and quality of these interactions for future reference and consideration. Take advantage of Early Action, Early Decision, and other priority deadlines. ★

Richard O'Rourke is Associate Director at The University of Illinois at Chicago.

HOW AMERICAN
UNIVERSITIES ARE
RESPONDING TO THE

2016 ELECTION RESULTS

BY *Jessica Black Sandberg*



Like many across India, and indeed the world, you may have watched in confusion as the results came in early on November 9. Donald Trump had just won the US Presidential election in an upset that the polls hadn't foreseen. You were not alone in your bewilderment but because you have been considering (or perhaps already planning to) study in the United States, questions probably emerged. Will it be safe? Will I be treated well by classmates, teachers, and the surrounding communities? Will I find opportunities to work or complete internships during my stay?

#YouAreWelcomeHere

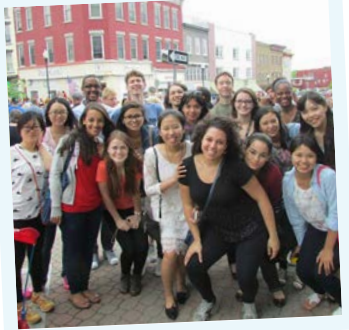
Those of us who represent American colleges and universities wanted a way to show you that our commitment to international education is as strong as ever. On November 15th, an organization called StudyGroup produced a video featuring messages from its member institutions expressing their commitment to international students and featuring the hashtag #YouAreWelcomeHere. When we watched it at Temple University, we knew we needed to help amplify the message so that students around the world would understand their value in the United States. We quickly produced our own video, shared the message across our professional networks and encouraged more colleges to do the same. Soon, the hashtag was popping up across Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. As of early January, more than 40 schools, organi-

➔ #YOUAREWELCOMEHERE



"If you have the opportunity to study in the United States, do it! It is a decision that you will never regret and that will fill your life with unforgettable experiences, people, and at the same time your world perspective will open and definitely, the opportunities will come to you!"

—Priscilla Araya from Costa Rica



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zations, and U.S. embassies are using the hashtag in heartwarming videos and social media messages.

This campaign is intended to convey more than just our fondness for international students. It represents our commitment to the safety, well-being, and development of every student that chooses the United States for their studies. It represents our belief that educational exchange opens minds and unites nations. The tides of U.S. politics will ebb and flow but American colleges and universities are citizens of the world.

Most of our campuses are safe, open-minded, and international in scope. We have safeguards in place to protect diversity, free speech, and your personal comfort. An election does not change our culture. Temple University BBA student Harshvardhan Khanna, originally from Mumbai, puts it this way, "I don't see these current events as an established reason to affect the safety of international students here in Philadelphia. [In] a democracy [one] does not have the individual right to make [an] idea a law without it being passed by a majority."

The National Conversation

It may also help you to understand that the #YouAreWelcomeHere campaigns is part of a larger conversation across the United States in support for globalism and human rights.

Availability of OPT and H1B

The feedback we've received from India suggests that some of you, especially those considering post-graduate studies in the United States, are concerned about employment opportunities and specifically the availability of OPT and H1B visas under the

THE TIDES OF
U.S. POLITICS WILL
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CITIZENS OF THE
WORLD.

Trump administration. Experts can only guess at changes that new leadership may or may not make. What we do know is that the legislative system in the United States is slow-moving and prohibits the president from making unilateral decisions. In the meantime, the U.S. business community has spoken publicly about the importance of recruiting foreign talent, especially in technology and engineering fields. Following a December 14th meeting with Donald Trump, tech leaders reported that the conversations

related to the value of the H1B visa were favorable. Consequently, there is reason to feel hopeful that these programs will remain unhindered. Indeed, the possibility for their expansion also exists.

Perfectly Imperfect

Senator William J. Fulbright, a pioneer in international education and the founder of the namesake scholarship program, once stated that the purpose of promoting international education was "to acquaint Americans with the world as it is and to acquaint students and scholars from many lands with America as it is--not as we wish it were or as we might wish foreigners to see it, but exactly as it is--which by my reckoning is an "image" of which no American need be ashamed." And the United States remains today as he described it--a perfectly imperfect country. The choice to study abroad in any country comes with uncertainty and risk. Our job as educators is to minimize those risks to ensure your safety but we do not eliminate them entirely. We want you to challenge yourself, consider different ideas, and experience new adventures. We are confident that the diverse, eclectic, and engaging environment of the United States is the ideal location for helping you achieve these goals. 🌟

Jessica Black Sandberg is Director of International Admissions at Temple University.

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AGREEMENTS

Many American students—and over 91,000 international students—attend a community college for the first two years of university studies in the USA. With nearly 1,200 community colleges in the country, there are many benefits of this model in comparison to studying all four years at a university. Community colleges offer significantly lower tuition, smaller classes and strong student support. And oftentimes, they serve as pathways to prestigious four-year universities.

One of the great strengths of American higher education is the ease with which students can transfer from one college or university to another. For students who plan to earn a bachelor's degree the transition from community college to a university for the final two years can be quite easy. Students will attend a community college to complete lower division general education requirements and then transfer to a university. There, they can take upper division courses and thereby complete a bachelor's degree. Such an approach is commonly known as "2 + 2," though it may take more than four years to complete all of the courses required for a bachelor's degree.

In fact, many university advisors recommend that

students attend community college "college transfer" programs first, and then transfer to universities for the final two years. For example, students studying at Santa Monica College, a community college, have transferred to UCLA upon receiving their two-year transfer degree.

Making Transfers Easy

Many colleges and universities have special arrangements known as "articulation agreements" or Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) partnerships with other institutions. Articulation agreements help ensure that the classes taken at a community college transfer easily to partner institutions with little or no loss of credit and time. For example, the 10 Maricopa Community Colleges in the metropolitan area of Phoenix, Arizona, work very closely with the University of Arizona, Arizona State University and Northern Arizona University to make sure that Maricopa's courses will transfer.

University Transfer Admission Guarantee partnerships guarantee a community college student's admission upon completing specific requirements set by the university. These requirements may include a specific grade point average, coursework, and TOEFL

INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER FAIRS

Many community colleges host "transfer fairs" so their students can learn about opportunities to earn a terminal degree at a four-year university. At these fairs, usually held in a school auditorium on campus, students have a great opportunity to talk to admissions representatives from prestigious universities around the country.

For example, an international community college student studying in Seattle may transfer out of Washington State to places like California or New York. Representatives from other U.S. universities come to international transfer fairs to recruit outstanding international students into years three and four at their universities.

Sometimes several other community colleges in a region join as well so the fairs can draw even more universities to a multi-day event. ★

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Community colleges are different than four-year universities. Here's how:

+ **ADMISSION IS EASIER.** TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) scores and academic requirements are usually lower for admission to U.S. community colleges than to four-year institutions. Many community colleges also offer ESL (English as a Second Language) programs or developmental math for students whose scores are too low to begin academic studies immediately.

+ **COSTS ARE LOWER.** Tuition at community colleges can be as much as 20 percent to 80 percent less than at four-year American universities and colleges. This is a tremendous cost savings for the first two years of the bachelor's degree.

+ **STUDENT ENROLLMENT** in classes, or at the institution in general, **IS OFTEN SMALLER** than at four-year schools. Teachers and advisors are able to provide more one-on-one attention to students. Many U.S. and international students say that attending smaller schools for the first two years helped them make a good transition into larger four-year schools for the final two years.

+ **CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENTS ARE MORE SUPPORTIVE.** In the U.S. educational system, students often compete for good grades. International students who do not speak English fluently are at a disadvantage. Often, they do better and feel more comfortable in smaller classes where there is less competition. In addition, community colleges typically offer free tutoring to support students' success.

+ **ADJUSTING IS EASIER.** Two years at a community college can help an international student improve English language skills and grow accustomed to the U.S. educational system and culture.

score. Some majors are excluded from TAG agreements. For example, Business Administration is excluded from TAG agreements to the University of California, Irvine.

Most commonly articulation and TAG agreements will be between community colleges and four-year colleges and universities within the same state, but not always. For example, all the 115 California community colleges have articulation agreements with the California State University (CSU) system and the University of California (UC) system. For example, if a student successfully completes the general education requirements for California State University or the University of California at Santa Monica College, he or she can transfer to one of the universities and complete the last two years for the bachelor's degree.

These partnerships provide students an opportunity to save money on community college tuition and still transfer and graduate from a top-ranked university.

Whether students choose to study the arts or sciences depends on what they plan for their "major" field of study. During the first two years, students are studying a wide variety of humanities, social sciences, and natural science courses along with some foundation courses to prepare for their major.

Don't allow some of the challenges of transferring to deter you. If you plan ahead, a transfer can be an excellent way to accomplish your educational goals and enrich your experience with American higher education. Just as shifting gears in a car is a way to get more speed and power, transferring from one college or university to another can propel you to greater accomplishments. ★

DUSAN DJOKIC from Serbia is studying at Edmonds Community College in Washington State and plans to transfer his community college credentials to a university so he can study Business Administration.

tip

I chose **Edmonds Community College** because I could get my high school diploma and also, at the same time, start earning my Associate of Arts degree. It was great opportunity for me to finish two programs in two school years. I am now one year ahead of my friends in Serbia. I am planning to work for one year on OPT (Optional Practical Training); then I will transfer to a university. My top two universities are California State University in Northridge or City University of New York.

Coming to America and Edmonds Community College was the best choice I could have possibly made. I realized that it is very important to stick to your goals and do not give up. There are so many opportunities on campus such as activities, clubs and jobs. Doing well in class and participating on campus will help you to be successful toward your dreams.

Five Tips for a Successful Transfer!

1 START WHERE YOU WANT TO FINISH—First, find out exactly what the requirements are for admission to the school and to the academic program you want to transfer to. Then, choose classes now at your current school based on what you know you'll need in the future.

2 BE ORGANIZED AND READY TO WORK HARD—Exploring colleges and universities to transfer to in the future is exciting and fun, yet it does take effort. In addition to general admission standards, like the number of credits you have taken and your overall GPA, there might also be additional requirements for admission into your major, such as specific classes, a portfolio, a personal essay or even an interview.

3 TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF YOUR RESOURCES—Work closely with advisors at both your current school and, if possible, at your future school. Clearly communicate to everyone what your transfer goals are so that you and your advisors are all working in concert with each other.

4 ATTEND NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION—Don't assume that because you have already attended college you don't need to attend an orientation program for new students. Nothing could be further from the truth. Even though you are bringing college credit with you when you arrive, you are a new student, and you need to learn how to navigate the systems and resources at your new school.

5 HAVE A DREAM SCHOOL, AND A PLAN "B"—If your dream has always been to attend a nationally ranked and highly selective university, then develop a transfer plan for this school and pursue it with enthusiasm. At the same time, keep yourself grounded and keep your options open. There are thousands of truly excellent colleges and universities for you to consider. Just because you haven't heard of a school doesn't mean that in the end it might actually be the very best school for you and become your dream school!

Elizabeth Lyon is Associate Director and Transfer Advisor at Edmonds Community College.

ADMISSIONS TESTS

IELTS for the USA

International English Language Testing System

What is IELTS?

IELTS is the International English Language Testing System, a test designed to assess the language ability of non-native speakers of English for admissions into higher education and other purposes. IELTS tests all four language skills: listening, reading, writing and speaking.

Who Should Take It?

There are two versions of IELTS. The Academic Module is intended for students who want to study in higher education where English is the language used for communication. The General Training Module is designed for those planning to study in secondary education, non-degree bearing programs, or vocational training.

Register and Book

<http://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/book>

TOEFL

What is TOEFL?

The TOEFL test is the most widely respected English-language test in the world, recognized by more than 9,000 colleges, universities and agencies. The TOEFL iBT test measures your ability to use and understand English at the university level and how well you combine your listening, reading, speaking and writing skills to perform academic tasks.

Who Should Take It?

Students planning to study at a higher education institution, English-language learning program admissions and exit, scholarship and certification candidates, English-language learners who want to track their progress and students and workers applying for visas.

Register and Book

<https://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/register/>

SAT

What is the SAT?

The SAT consists of multiple-choice questions and an essay that measure the skills you've developed in school and your ability to apply those skills. SAT scores help universities make informed admission decisions by providing one indicator of your academic readiness to perform university-level work. The test includes two sections comprised of three tests: Reading, Math, Writing & Language, plus an optional Essay. Some schools may require the Essay, so be sure to ask before you take the SAT.

Who Should Take It?

Students applying to a four-year undergraduate program at a college or university in the United States are required to take an admission test such as the SAT.

Register and Book

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register>

GRE® General Test

What is the GRE® General Test

The GRE® General Test measures your verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking and analytical writing skills—skills that have been developed over a long period of time and are not related to a specific field of study, but are important overall.

Who Should Take It?

Prospective graduate and business school applicants from all around the world who are interested in pursuing a master's, MBA, specialized master's in business or doctoral degree take the GRE General Test.

Register and Book

https://www.ets.org/gre/revise_general/register/

GMAT

What is the GMAT?

The GMAT (Graduate Management Admission Test) exam is a standardized test used around the world to gauge academic potential for graduate study in business and management. There are four sections of the GMAT exam: Analytical Writing Assessment, Integrated Reasoning, Quantitative, and Verbal.

Who Should Take It?

Students applying to graduate management or business programs can take the GMAT exam. The GMAT exam is used in admissions decisions by more than 5,300 graduate management programs worldwide.

Register and Book

<http://www.mba.com/us/the-gmat-exam/register.aspx> ★

INTERVIEW

Why did you choose to study in the United States?

Education in the United States is known all around the world. Studying in the U.S. doesn't simply give you a substantial degree; your experience says something in regards to your identity. Living in the U.S., where your language isn't spoken, is challenging, requires bravery and an inspirational state of mind.

Why did you choose to study at Delaware County Community College?

Delaware County Community College is comprised of committed advisors and teachers that will help shape a brilliant future for any individual who goes to the college. We have resources that everybody can use to help them towards their career goals. The college is loaded with associations that are continually doing exciting things on campus. It's extremely easy to join the fun here.

What did you like best about your experience at the college?

The students are very motivated, which helped me to get through. The professors and advisors want us to succeed.

What are your plans for the future?

I would like to run my own business. I see myself as a successful businessman after five years. The business classes that I took at Delaware County Community College are helping me a lot to know what business is all about.

What advice would you give future Delaware County Community College international students?

Work hard, have priorities, don't be afraid to get involved, and have fun. ★

Aerik Patel from India graduated with associate degree in Business Administration from Delaware County Community College in Media, Pennsylvania.



WHERE TO STUDY IN THE USA

ARKANSAS (AR)

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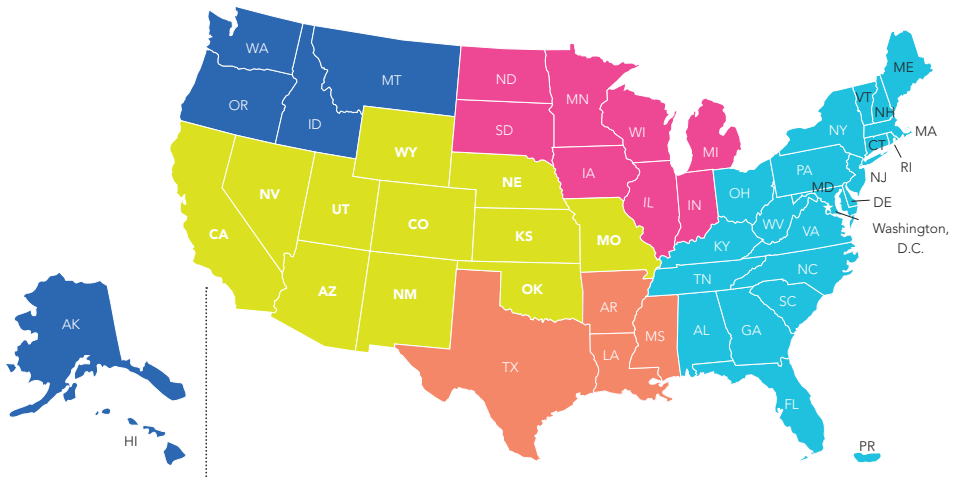
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TOWELS & BEDDING

(bring from home or buy in the U.S.)

- + Towels
- + Sheets
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MISCELLANEOUS

- + Lightweight, non-perishable food items, such as spices
- + Photos of friends and family
- + Any sentimental item that reminds you of home

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- + Shoes (casual, athletic, plus one dress pair)
- + Jeans/pants/shorts
- + Shirts (short and long-sleeved)
- + Pajamas
- + Socks & underwear
- + Bathing suit
- + Jacket Toiletries
- + Toothbrush
- + Toothpaste
- + Shampoo
- + Comb/brush
- + Soap
- + Deodorant
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 Hometown: Seoul, South Korea
 High School: Shanghai Community International School – IB Diploma
 OCC Highlights: Founder of the OCC soccer club, Member of Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society, Student Assistant – Global Engagement Center
 Accepted to: Bentley University, George Washington University, Loyola Chicago, Pace University, UC Berkeley, UCLA
 Transferred to: University of California Berkeley – Haas School of Business, Fall 2016

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