F-1 HANDBOOK
FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

PREPARED AND PRESENTED BY
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS PROGRAM
CONTENT

WELCOME MESSAGE ........................................................................................................... 03
GETTING STARTED: NEW F-1 STUDENTS OUTSIDE THE U.S. ...................... 04
GETTING STARTED: CANADIAN CITIZENS ...................................................... 06
TRANSPORTATION ....................................................................................................... 07
HOUSING ...................................................................................................................... 09
F-1 STUDENT ORIENTATION ............................................................................... 10
MEET OUR TEAM ........................................................................................................ 11
WELCOME TO MT. SAC

Welcome to the United States, and welcome to Mt. San Antonio College! You have made a great decision to come to Mt. SAC. We are excited to have you on campus and hope that your time here will be enriching, both academically and personally.

Mt. SAC is the first college of choice for many of our students and their parents. We consistently produce superstars in academics, athletics, performing arts, and professional disciplines - all of which has earned us the reputation of "College of Champions." Mt. SAC offers a diverse cultural environment that makes students feel like they belong.

We also have a lively and growing international student population with a majority of participants coming from Taiwan, South Korea, Indonesia, and China. You will find that the college provides many outstanding services and resources especially for you. The international students program provides:

- Designated School Officials (DSOs) to help you manage your F-1 student status;
- International academic counselors to guide you through your educational program;
- Cultural activities and events that introduce you to the LA area and help you meet new friends.

We will keep you up to date on immigrant news, workshop announcements and special events, so be sure to keep your local contact information current on your Mt. SAC portal at:

https://inside.mtsac.edu/

May this be the start of an unforgettable new chapter in your life!
GETTING STARTED:

NEW F-1 STUDENTS OUTSIDE THE U.S.

CAREFULLY REVIEW YOUR I-20 IMMEDIATELY AFTER RECEIPT: THE INFORMATION IN YOUR PASSPORT SHOULD MATCH THE INFORMATION ON YOUR I-20.

STEP 1: Apply for an F-1 Visa

Now that you have been admitted to Mt. SAC, you will need to apply for an F-1 student visa at your nearest U. S. Embassy or Consulate (https://www.usembassy.gov/).

The following is a general checklist for an F-1 visa application. Please be aware that the requirements may vary. Check with your U.S. Embassy or Consulate for specific details.

- I-20 (Don't forget to sign your name on item 11 of Form I-20.)
- SEVIS Fee Receipt (https://www.fmjfee.com/index.jhtml)
- Financial Documents
- Proof of English Proficiency
- Proof of Non-immigrant Intent
- Passport
- Form DS-156, "Non-immigrant Visa Application"
- Form DS-158, "Contact Information and Work History for Non-immigrant Visa Applicant"
- Photograph
GETTING STARTED:

NEW F-1 STUDENTS OUTSIDE THE U.S.

STEP 2: Travel to the U.S.

After obtaining the F-1 student visa, arrange travel to the United States. Please keep in mind that students cannot enter the U.S. earlier than 30 days before the program start date on the I-20.

Upon arrival to the U.S. students must present the following documents to the inspecting officer:

- Passport (valid for at least six months)
- F-1 Visa
- Financial Documents
- I-20
- SEVIS Fee Receipt

For more information on what to expect upon arrival to the U.S., please see:

http://www.ice.gov/sevis/factsheet/100104ent_stdent_fs.htm

STEP 3: Report to Mt. San Antonio College

You must report to your Designated School Official (DSO) at Mt. San Antonio College within 30 days of the program start date on your I-20. Please visit the Admission & Records Office with the following documents:

- Passport
- F-1 Visa
- I-94
- I-20 (stamped by immigration)
- Current U.S. Address and Telephone Number
GETTING STARTED:

CANADIAN CITIZENS

STEP 1: Travel to the U. S.

Canadian citizens do not need to obtain an F-1 visa to study in the U.S. However, you will be required to pay the SEVIS fee. Please keep in mind that students cannot enter the U. S. earlier than 30 days before the program start date of the I-20. Upon arrival to the U.S., students must present the following documents to the inspecting officer:

- Passport
- I-20 (Don’t forget to sign your name on item 11 of Form I-20.)
- SEVIS Fee Receipt (https://www.fmjfee.com/index.jhtml)
- Evidence of Financial Support
- Evidence of Non-immigrant Intent

Be sure to ask the immigration inspector to stamp your I-94 card and I-20 with "F-1 D/S (Duration of Status)" so that you'll have F-1 status. If you are admitted to the U. S. without an I-94 indicating D/ S or Duration of Status, you will be considered a 'tourist' and therefore prohibited from studying. It is important that you tell the Immigration Officer that you will be a STUDENT.

STEP 2: Report to Mt. San Antonio College

You must report to your Designated School Official (DSO) at Mt. San Antonio College within 30 days of the program start date on your I-20. Please visit the Admission & Records Office with the following documents:

- Passport, I-94, and I-20 (stamped by immigration)
- Current U. S. Address and Telephone Number
TRANSPORTATION

No car? No problem! Los Angeles is a huge city, which is why going anywhere outside of your neighborhood might seem a bit daunting. Don’t fret – there are several ways to get around this giant city if you don’t have a car, or if you simply don’t feel comfortable driving in certain parts of LA.

0 Carpool with a friend: Many students attending Mt. San Antonio College have cars. Don’t be shy to ask for a lift from one of your peers.

0 Take a taxi: Taxis in Los Angeles tend to be more expensive than other options, though are sometimes necessary in the event that you cannot access other modes of transportation or in cases of emergency.

0 Rideshare (Lyft, Uber, Sidecar): Rideshare apps tend to be cheaper than conventional taxis and are a convenient and safe option for smartphone users as cash is not required – the app store charges each ride to your credit card.

0 Take a bus or subway: Los Angeles has an extremely efficient public transportation system. Always remember to plan your route and check operating hours ahead of time.

HELPFUL LINKS

Foothill Transit - http://foothilltransit.org/
Metrolink - https://www.metrolinktrains.com/
LA Metro - https://www.metro.net/
Uber ride - https://www.uber.com/ride/
Lyft ride - https://www.lyft.com/rider
Sidecar - https://www.side.cr/
TRANSPORTATION

AIRPORT GROUND TRANSPORTATION

LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (LAX)

When you arrive at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), you can take a shared ride van directly to Mt. SAC College or any location in Los Angeles. Shared ride vans are located at the designated ground transportation areas just outside baggage claim areas. Each van will have a sign on it indicating its destination. The cost is approximately $15 - $35 for transportation from LAX to any specified locations in LA with an optional tip recommended for the driver.

ONTARIO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (ONT)

Alternatively, students can choose to arrive at Ontario International Airport instead of LAX if more convenient. Public transportation as well as Lyft and Uber is available at ONT.
HOUSING

The Student Life Office offers a list of available housing and rental properties in the surrounding communities.

Additionally, there are homestay options, which offer students a unique opportunity to live with a family while studying at school. Mt. SAC does not endorse any of the listings.

Students can also live in off campus apartments at the Cal Poly Village Apartments.

CAMPUS LISTINGS: Students can view an up-to-date list of available housing rental by contacting Student Life.

- Website: http://www.mtsac.edu/housing/
- Phone number: 1-909-274-4525
- Campus location: Building 9 C - Student Life center

HOMESTAY: Students can go to the UCE website to view available options and fill out the application.

- Website: https://www.uceus.com/homestay-1
- Phone number: 1-909-946-6138

CAL POLY VILLAGE APARTMENTS: Mt. SAC students are able to live on campus at Cal Poly Pomona

- Website: https://foundation.cpp.edu/village/
- Phone number: 1-909-869-4242
- Campus location: University Village - 3400 Poly Vista - Building 300 - Pomona, CA 91768
F-1 Student Orientation

All new F-1 students are required to attend a four-day orientation, which will provide an overview of the college and how the enrollment process works. Orientation introduces students to the various support services available to them while attending Mt. SAC.

Bring the following items to orientation:
1. Passport with F1 Visa
2. I-20 document
3. Welcome email with your Mt. SAC ID#
4. U.S. home address information
5. Emergency contact information

DAY 1: ORIENTATION
- Check-in
- Welcome Message
- Immigration Regulations
- Campus Resource Fair
- Assessment Test Preparation

DAY 2: ASSESSMENT TESTING
- Assessment of Written English (AWE)
- Reading Placement Test (COMPASS)
- Math Placement Test

DAY 3: COUNSELING ORIENTATION
- Academic Planning
- Review of Assessment Test Results
- Time Management
- Portal Assistance

DAY 4: REGISTRATION
- Individual Counseling Sessions
- Registration Assistance
- Campus Tour
MEET OUR TEAM

OUR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM TEAM MEMBERS ARE THE BEST AT WHAT THEY DO, AND THEY’LL WORK HARD TO MAKE YOUR COLLEGE EXPERIENCE AT MT. SAC VERY REWARDING.

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INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM

CONTACT US:
The International Student Center is located in Student Services Building, 9 B, 2nd floor

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+1 (909) 274-4415

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