



Dear Student,

Welcome to Anna Maria College! We are committed to providing the tools and support necessary to foster growth and success for our international students.

You have received notice that your Form I-20 was created. Please be sure to log-in to the Portal and review your Form I-20 to be sure it is accurate. If you find anything that is incorrect or needs to be changed, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can make any changes/corrections necessary.

If your I-20 is accurate, or once you receive your updated Form I-20, please print the Form and sign it at the bottom of page 1 where indicated.

Below is a brief pre-arrival checklist to guide you:

- 1) Pay the SEVIS I-901 Fee @ www.fmjfee.com
Your SEVIS ID (N0XXXXXXXX) can be found on the top left of your Form I-20
- 2) Apply for an F-1 visa at the US Embassy/Consulate
See the Department of State website here for more details
<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study.html>
Locate the US Embassy/Consulate here
<https://www.usembassy.gov>
You cannot apply for an F-1 visa more than 120 days in advance of your program start date.
Canadian citizens do not require a US Visa
- 3) Schedule your trip to the United States!
Plan to arrive at Anna Maria up to 30 days before the start date listed on your Form I-20.
Your arrival to the United States cannot be more than 30 days prior to the program start date!
- 4) Before you arrive be sure you have reviewed the checklist found here
<https://annamaria.edu/admission/undergraduate-admission/admitted-students/new-student-information/>
That checklist includes important dates by which you need to have registered for classes, paid your insurance, submitted your health forms, paid your tuition, etc.

Visa Interview

Be sure to follow all of the instructions sent to you by the US Consulate, this includes making sure you have your documents with you: Form I-20, Admission/Acceptance letter, Financial Aid Award, Bank Statement, and, Proof that you paid the SEVIS Fee. You can access your Admissions documents in your Admissions Portal.



Briefly, make sure to:

- Bring your documents!
- Read through your visa application to make sure it's accurate and give the same information at your visa interview – sometimes you may get flustered, try to stay calm 😊
- Think about practicing your visa interview with a friend – make sure you can discuss your plans to return home after graduation, how you might use your degree from Anna Maria, etc.
- Know what program you've applied to! If you have questions about your program, please ask. You can also find information about the College (and your program) online here <https://annamaria.edu/about/>
- Tell the truth!! It is critical that you never lie to a Consular Officer.
- Be prepared to make any additional payments that may be required of you

Try not to:

- Be overly casual or self-confident. This is like a business interview – be serious, be prepared.
- Stress out! If you can find a way to stay calm the interview process will be much easier for you. Make sure you get a good night's sleep and arrive to your appointment in advance of the time you are expected.

Arriving at Anna Maria

Presenting documents at the Port of Entry – ***do not pack these documents in your checked luggage!***

- Valid Passport with F-1 visa stamp (Canadians do not require visas to enter the United States)
- Form I-20
- Evidence that you have paid the SEVIS fee

An officer at the Port of Entry will review your papers. They will no longer stamp your passport upon entry. The immigration inspector will issue you an electronic I-94 document that corresponds with your admission to the United States. You can retrieve your I-94 at <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov>

Upon arrival to campus, you will be scheduled for orientation activities including an immigration orientation which is required. Dates for these orientation activities will be sent to you. If you have any conflicts because of your class/course schedule, please let us know as soon as possible so we can make alternate arrangements.

Maintaining Status

As F-1 students you are required to maintain your immigration status while in the United States. A few items to note before you arrive:

- You must be enrolled in a full course of study. For undergraduate students, this means a minimum of 12 credits. For graduate students, the number of credits depends on your program requirements but typically it is at least 6 credits per semester.



- You must ensure that your bill is paid so that you can register for your classes and stay actively enrolled.
- You must attend classes in person! Registering and not attending will result in a failure to maintain immigration status.
- You cannot work off-campus.
- You must update us with your physical US address after you arrive and any time you move.

We will go over all the rules and regulations of your immigration status with you during orientation as well, but please keep these rules in mind as you begin to think about your arrival at Anna Maria.

If you are living off campus, please note that public transportation from the city of Worcester to Anna Maria is limited. As an international student, it can take up to a year to obtain a US Driver's License. If you are living with a host family or another student, please be sure that transportation is accessible to you throughout the year!

We are looking forward to your arrival at Anna Maria!

