

# international student guide

to the United States of America

**2008**  
WORLDWIDE  
EDITION

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Every effort has been made to include correct and current information; however, the **International Student Guide to the United States of America** or its publisher cannot accept any responsibility for inaccuracies or omissions. Mention or editorial inclusion of any organization or business does not constitute endorsement.

The **International Student Guide to the United States of America** is to be distributed **FREE-OF-COST** to students seeking to continue their education in the United States of America.

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# Going from High School to College in the U.S.

Each year hundreds of thousands of American high school students prepare to enter colleges and universities in the United States. The process of going from high school senior to college freshman is one filled with challenges and opportunities. For most young people it is a time of change and personal growth. The reasons for going to college are many, but for several there is a desire to seek intellectual development in the hopes of gaining successful employment in meaningful work coupled with higher wage earning potential. However, for all applicants there are many decisions to consider and challenges to overcome in making the transition from high school to college.

## Preparing for College and Getting In

Americans are very future-oriented and applicants to college have many things to consider long before their senior or final year in high school. Even in some junior high schools, guidance counselors help parents and students plan future classes. However most high school students planning to go to college will take basic courses in math, science, English and others to meet the college or university's requirements. Other important requirements may include the student's cumulative grade point average (GPA) based on grades earned in high school. Other colleges and universities consider membership in teams or organizations outside of class. In addition, most schools require applicants to take a national college

admission and placement examination which assesses the student's ability to complete college-level work. The two most popular exams are the ACT and SAT, which test the applicant's abilities in English, mathematics, reading and science. A written test may be administered, too. If the applicant is not a permanent resident or citizen of the United States, he or she may also be required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Finally, the applicant may have an interview at the college or university as part of the application process.

## Financing College

Most families in the United States pay for their children's college costs through a combination of savings, current income, and loans. Gift aid from the government, colleges and universities, and private scholarships also help pay for the cost of going to school. Families often participate in college savings plans to help prepare them for the costs of tuition which have risen sharply in the United States. In addition, students and families often apply for federal assistance through federal loan programs (Stafford, Perkins) or grants of free money (Pell) as well as from private banks. Students also apply for local scholarships from businesses and foundations. A smaller number of students consider careers in the military in exchange for financial support from the U.S. Armed Services. While in college, many students work

part-time jobs on or off campus to help supplement their finances.

### Choosing a College or University

In deciding where to attend college, high school students make some basic choices. Does the school offer a degree program and/or coursework in their chosen major or minor field of study? What kinds of out-of-class activities and campus organizations are available? What kinds of facilities are available? What is the school's reputation or ranking? What are the requirements for entrance? What is the cost of attending? Where is the school located? Is the college coed or diverse in population? These are questions that often involve school guidance counselors, family, teachers, coaches, friends and the institution itself, which usually offers walking tours of the campus,

promotional materials, and meetings with faculty, staff and alumni to aid the process. In the end, it is the student who must decide the institution is a good match or he or she may seek to enroll elsewhere.

### Being a College Student

Once in college, students become acutely aware of how and when they are evaluated. Colleges on the semester system (12-16 week period) evaluate students on exams, labs, projects, essays and research throughout the period, but midterm exams (given half-way through the term) and final exams (given at the end of the term) are always expected. Students generally experience a greater amount of homework and "cramming" or all-night sessions to prepare for tests. The increase in workload exceeds that experienced in high school. In addition, for many students, going to college is the first time living away from home. While this new-found freedom provides the opportunity to be more independent, there is also more demand on the student's time including more opportunities for involvement in campus organizations and social events. Students may also work part time to earn money. All of these mean students feel more pressure to manage their time while maintaining their grades. The transition to college can also mean living in a large city for the first time, living with a roommate, cooking on your own, facing personal choices with regard to alcohol or relationships, and finding one's personal identity. The experience of going to college is often a transforming experience for young adults.

## Did You Know...

International students make up nearly 4% of the total student population in the U.S.

### The most popular fields of study are:

Business and Management - 18%

Engineering - 15%

Other\* - 10%

Physical & Life Sciences - 9%

\*"Other" mainly includes

Liberal/General Studies,  
Communications & Journalism,  
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies,  
and Law.

2007 Open Doors/IEE Data Table

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Editorial provided by Philip Plourde, Director of the Culture and Intensive English Program, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa.



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# Which English Program is Best for You?

There are more than 1,000 intensive English programs in the United States. How can you choose the program that is best for you? Begin by thinking about these things: reason for learning English, program type, length of time for study, Program quality, location, housing, services, and cost.

## Reason for Learning English

Some people want to learn general English so that they can use it in many different situations. Other people plan to study in a university or college and want to learn academic English and English academic skills. Still, others want to learn the English used in specific fields such as health, tourism, or business. What kind of English do you want to study and learn?

## Program Type

Many U.S. intensive English programs are part of university/college departments or divisions and are located on their school's campus. Other programs may be located on a campus, but are run privately, or may not be a part of the university/college organization. Still, others are private and are located in their own facilities.

## Length of Time for Study

How long are you able to stay in the United States? What is your proficiency level now? There are programs that divide into 4-week sessions, 8-week sessions, and 15/16-week sessions. How many sessions you will need to attend depends on your proficiency level when you begin and the level that you want to reach.

## Program Quality

How can you tell if an intensive English program is a good one? There are several ways that you can determine this. One important way is to learn about its accreditation status. An accredited program must meet certain quality standards. In the U.S., intensive English programs can be accredited by the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA) or by the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education & Training (ACCET). Many universities and colleges are regionally accredited and this is an indicator of the quality of intensive English programs they run. Association membership is also a quality measure. Many intensive programs belong to the American Association of Intensive English Programs (AAIEP) and/or the Consortium of University and College Intensive English Programs (UCIEP). In order to become members, programs must meet quality standards. An additional way to learn about the quality of a particular program is to talk to someone who has been a student there. Do you have a friend or a relative who has studied English in the U.S.? Talk to them about the program they attended.

## Location

Some people don't care about where in the U.S. a program is located. To other people, location is very important. Do you care how hot or cold the weather is? Do you want to experience four seasons or do you like the same weather all the time? What kind of recreation do you enjoy or

want to try for the first time? (Surfing and skiing require very different locations.) Do you want to live in a famous, big city or would you prefer a small town? If you want to live on a university/college campus, how small or big would you like the university/college to be? If you want to travel on weekends or breaks, how close are the attractions you'd like to see?

## Housing

Students in intensive English programs live in many different kinds of housing. These include campus dormitories (some for younger students, some for older students), private apartments, homestays, and hotels. What kind of housing would you prefer? Do you want to do your own cooking or eat in a cafeteria? Do you like a quiet situation or do you like to socialize and meet many people? Do you want to get to know one American family very well? If you are considering a homestay, be sure to find out if it is one where you would spend a lot of social time with the family, or if you would simply rent a room in a house.

## Services

What kind of services outside English class is important to you? The program services that are possible include university/college application help, academic advising, locating American conversation partners, airport pickup, organizing field trips and social activities, and arranging housing for you.

## Cost

To calculate how much your English study will cost you, keep in mind school tuition and any fees plus living expenses. You can compare the cost of different schools by adding tuition and any fees and then dividing that number by weeks in the program. Then, compare the weekly cost among schools. Living expenses will include housing, food, and all of your personal expenses (don't forget

recreation and travel). The amount you will need for living expenses can be very different from one geographical area to another. New York City, for example, is much more expensive than a small town in Missouri.

Now you are ready to look for programs that will meet your most important criteria. The very best way to do that is to look at individual programs' websites. How do you find those websites? One way is to check printed publications like this one, where programs list their web addresses. Another is to use online directories. CEA, ACCET, AAIEP, and UCIEP all have organization websites that connect directly to more than 350 intensive English programs.

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Editorial provided by Ann Frentzen, Director of the Intensive English Communication Program at Pennsylvania State University.



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# Applying for a U.S. Student Visa

Students from outside of the United States experience much of the same college search and application processes if they decide to study at a U.S. college. But international students must not only be accepted to a U.S. college; they must also obtain permission from the U.S. government to live and study in the United States. Although the process is relatively straightforward, getting that permission requires good planning and preparation. Read on for the basics of applying for a U.S. student visa.

## The College Admission Process

Before you can apply for a visa, you must know what college you'll be attending. So, much like students living in the United States, international students must research their college options, apply to several colleges, and be accepted to at least one of them. Unlike U.S. students, international students must also prove to the college of their choice that they can pay all college fees and living expenses while studying in the United States. Some financial and merit aid may be available to international students, depending on the college you choose, but you still must have a well-thought-out, documented financial plan for your years in the United States.

Once you've been accepted and the college is satisfied that you can support yourself, the college will send you an I-20 form. This form documents that you have been offered admission to the college and that the college is satisfied that you can afford to study there. It also

gives you a "report date," or the date when you're expected to arrive at the college to begin classes.

The I-20 is one of the main documents you'll need to apply for a student visa.

## Documents and More Documents

Once you receive your I-20 from the college, it's time to put together the other documents you'll need to apply for the visa. Students who plan on attending a four-year or two-year academic program should apply for the F-1 visa.

You need several main documents to apply for a visa:

- Form I-20, which you receive from the college.
- Form DS-156, which you can get from the U.S. State Department's web site, <http://evisaforms.state.gov>, and Form DS-158 and Form DS-157 (for males only), which you can get from your local U.S. embassy or consulate.
- A passport that is valid for at least the next six months (preferably longer).
- A passport-sized photo of yourself.
- A receipt that shows payment of the visa processing fee. How you pay the fee differs in each country, so make sure to check with your local U.S. embassy or consulate for details. In some countries, you may not be able to pay the fee at the consulate.

Although these documents are the only official ones needed to apply, you also need to gather documentation to support certain aspects of your visa application.

### The BIG Three Questions

Your visa application, supporting documentation, and your interview with a consular officer (see below) must work together to answer the following questions:

**#1**

Are you a real student?

**#2**

Do you intend to return to your home country after college?

**#3**

Do you have enough money to support yourself while in the United States (without getting a job, which is illegal for nonimmigrant students)?

Remember, by U.S. law, it is the consular officer's job to find reasons to deny your visa. The officers are required to assume that you're trying to immigrate to the United States permanently. It's your job to prove differently.

The documents needed to answer these questions may be different depending on your country and your situation, but they may include any or all of the following:

- Your academic record to date.
- Copies of scores from any standardized tests you've taken (SAT, TOEFL, GRE, etc.).

- Letters of admission and financial aid awards from your U.S. college.
- Financial documents, such as your and your family's bank statements, tax documents showing your/your family's income, and statements from any investments that you plan to use to finance your education.
- Documents showing any scholarships or financial help from other sources (college financial aid, governmental or organizational grants, outside scholarships).
- Business registration or licenses and other documents if you or your family owns a business.
- Evidence that you intend to return to your home country, such as a statement from an employer that you'll be considered for a job or have been offered a job after you complete your U.S. study; evidence that you own assets in your home country; anything else that shows that you have strong ties to your home country.

If you're not sure what documents you should bring, talk to your high school counselor, the college contact for international students, or someone at the U.S. consulate.

### The Interview

All visa applicants must have an interview with an officer at their country's U.S. embassy or consulate. Different consulates may schedule interviews differently, so check with the consulate ahead of time.

Also, U.S. embassies and consulates in some countries are very busy and may have a long waiting list for visa interviews. It's a good idea to check with the consulate early in the college application process, even before you

receive an I-20, just in case your consulate has a waiting period. Some countries may have a months-long waiting period; others may be able to schedule interviews fairly quickly.

During this interview, consular officers will ask you a variety of questions about your plans for your education, finances and career after college. Again, they are looking for any reason to believe that you're not a real student, that you may be planning to stay in the United States illegally, or that you won't be able to support yourself financially in the United States.

The best way to succeed in your interview is to arrive well-prepared. Think through your answers to some of the following questions:

- Why do you want to study in the United States?
- Why did you choose this college?
- Why did you choose this major? What jobs does this major prepare you for?
- How will studying in the United States prepare you for a job here at home?
- What have you been involved in that shows your commitment to your home country?
- How will you pay for the college fees and living expenses in the United States? (Remember, students with F-1 visas are not allowed to get jobs in the United States except under special circumstances. So you cannot plan on any job income to pay for your studies or expenses at colleges.)
- Other questions about the United States, your educational plans, your career plans, and your finances.

You may wish to practice your answers with a counselor or friend. Be

polite, and make your answers short and to the point. Most interviews are less than five minutes, so short answers are best.

### Start the Process Early

Since the terrorist attacks in the United States on Sept. 11, 2001, the student visa process has been scrutinized by the media (several of the hijackers had visas to study in U.S. flight schools). The U.S. government now evaluates applicants more carefully than in the past, and some applications require additional security screening. With these changes, advance planning is very important for international students.

### For More Information

This is only an overview of what international students can expect from the U.S. visa application process. For more detailed information and help, talk to your high school counselor or the advisor to international students at your college. In addition, the US State Department, <http://www.state.gov>, has placed quite a bit of information on their Web site.

**If you have questions about the visa process, it's best to call your local U.S. embassy or consulate directly, or to check their Web site for information. It may seem intimidating to call the consulate, but it's the best way to get good information about the visa process in your country.**

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# TOEFL, GMAT, GRE, LSAT, MCAT, SAT, ACT...

## Which Tests Do You Need?

The American system of education relies on various specialized or “standardized” tests, which students must take in order to apply to a particular university or program. These exams offer universities a common basis for comparison of applicants.

### Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)

Nearly all international students whose native language is not English need to provide a TOEFL score as proof of English proficiency for university study. In fact, a TOEFL score is required for at least 3,400 colleges and universities in North America. Most international students take the TOEFL in addition to another admissions test such as the GMAT, GRE, MCAT, SAT or ACT. The TOEFL measures receptive and expressive skills equally—half of the total score on the test is based on reading and listening abilities (how well students receive and understand English) and the other half is based on speaking and writing abilities (how well students express themselves). The exam, which recently transitioned to an Internet-based format, runs approximately 3½ to 4½ hours long. Your TOEFL score is valid for two years.

### Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT)

If you are thinking about going to business school, the GMAT is almost

always a necessary part of your application. A 3½ hour computerized exam, the GMAT tests analytical writing skills, quantitative skills and verbal skills (reading comprehension, sentence correction and critical reasoning) through 78 multiple choice questions and two analytical essays. An estimated 110,000 individuals take the GMAT each year. At least 1,500 graduate business and management programs use GMAT scores as part of their application process. Your GMAT score is valid for five years.

### Graduate Record Exam (GRE)

The GRE is a computerized test required for admission to most graduate programs in the U.S. (except law, business and medicine). The exam measures verbal, quantitative and analytical writing skills, and research indicates that a student’s GRE score, along with their college GPA, is a good indicator of how well that student will perform in graduate school. An estimated 500,000 people take the GRE each year. Many graduate programs base financial aid packages, including fellowships and teaching assistantships, on GRE scores. Your GRE score is valid for five years.

### Law School Admissions Test (LSAT)

The LSAT is a 3½ hour paper-and-pencil test required for admission to most U.S. law schools. Comprised of roughly 125 multiple-choice questions plus a writing sample, the test is de-

signed to test the critical reading, data management and analytical thinking skills that are deemed necessary for success in the first year of law school. Of all admissions tests, the LSAT carries the most weight in the admissions decision-making process, and can account for up to 50 percent of a candidate's application at the most competitive schools. An estimated 110,000 students take the LSAT annually. Your LSAT score is valid for five years.

### Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT)

The MCAT is a computer-based multiple choice examination used by medical school admissions officials to predict future success. The MCAT is designed to test problem-solving skills, critical thinking abilities, and writing skills, as well as knowledge of basic science concepts. The test consists of

3 hours and 20 minutes of multiple-choice testing, plus one hour devoted to a writing sample. With all of the administrative details and breaks, the exam can last for 5½ hours. Approximately 71,000 people worldwide take the MCAT each year. In most cases, MCAT scores are valid for 3 years. However, this time frame varies from school to school.

### SAT

Most of the top undergraduate universities in the U.S. require applicants take a standardized admissions exam—either the SAT or its counterpart; the ACT. The SAT is the most widely taken university entrance exam, with about 1.4 million students taking it each year. A paper-and-pencil-based exam, the SAT is 3 hours and 45 minutes long and tests math, vocabulary and reading comprehension and writing skills. Because the SAT is an important element of the college admissions process, it is wise to prepare in order to improve your score. Your SAT score is valid for five years.

### ACT

The ACT is the other nationally administered, standardized test that helps colleges to evaluate candidates for undergraduate study. The ACT comprises four subject areas—English, mathematics, reading, and science and includes an optional essay. Also administered in paper-and-pencil, the ACT lasts 2 hours and 55 minutes (excluding the Writing Test) or 3 hours and 25 minutes (including the Writing Test). More than 1.2 million students take the exam each year. Your ACT score may be valid for up to 10 years, depending on the school.



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# American Graduate Education



[www.AmericanGraduateEducation.com](http://www.AmericanGraduateEducation.com)

**A Guide for International Students to  
Master's Degrees, MBA Programs, and  
PhD Programs in the USA**

A special supplement of the  
**International Student Guide  
to the United States of America**

[InternationalStudentGuidetotheUSA.com](http://InternationalStudentGuidetotheUSA.com)

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# Quality Education MBA

## Intellectual and Monetary Success

“The good news for students is that there is a quality business program that can meet the needs of almost anyone in the world.” That is according to Dan LeClair who, as the chief knowledge officer of the leading accreditor of business schools, should know. According to LeClair, “the most important development in business education has been the incredible diversity that has emerged from an unprecedented expansion in global demand.”

Prospective business students have a wide array of program options. To earn an MBA, for example, students can choose from programs that are full-time, part-time, geared toward executives, completely or partially online, and more. There are MBAs for those with management experience or without and there are alternatives that combine business with study for other professional degrees, such as law and medicine. Prospective students can choose among many concentrations as part of their MBA or select from a growing number of more specialized master’s programs. MBA programs are available in almost every country in the world with costs ranging from less than 10,000 USD to more than 100,000 USD. The MBA has become the most recognized degree in the world.

**Invest in Your Career:** Earning an MBA can pay off handsomely according to a series of studies by the Graduate Management Admission Council® (GMAC). Recruiters say that 2007 MBA graduates can expect to earn a base sal-

ary of 85,000 USD, which exceeds other graduate program salaries by almost 20% and undergraduate salaries by nearly 100%. Among schools accredited by AACSB International, GMAC studies have shown the annual return on investment across all programs to be nearly 20% and, for part-time programs, which are generally less costly, the annual return on investment is a handsome 68%.

### **Evaluate Your Needs and Interests:**

The needs, interests, and demands of future business students vary considerably depending on culture, educational background, family circumstances, location, financial capability, and aspirations. When faced with such a wide range of choices, future business students should begin by carefully evaluating their objectives, as well as constraints. For example, it might make more sense for some students to pursue an MBA on a part-time basis, rather than quit their jobs to relocate to a residential program at a top-ranked school. For others who are interested in making a career transition and don’t mind relocating to study, it might make more sense to pursue an MBA as a full-time student.

**It’s Not Just About You:** Despite the individual payoff from a business education, prospective students should be advised that it is not just about salaries and career advancement. The real value of an MBA comes from the business leadership, knowledge, skills, and values it seeks to develop in its graduates. And by develop-

ing management talent and improving management practices, MBA education provides value to organizations. Indeed, companies that take intellectual capital development seriously continue to find ample returns from their direct investment in business schools through recruitment and tuition support.

**Quality Matters:** It matters to Intel, FedEx, Lockheed Martin and Telephone Data Systems, which are just a few of the global companies that have become more conscious of the tuition reimbursement they are paying for and what they are getting in the quality of graduates in return. It matters to employees, too, because as The Chronicle of Higher Education reported and Intel discovered, employees with MBAs from AACSB-accredited schools were more likely to get promoted within the company.

According to a recent report by AACSB International, "Over the course

of the last hundred years, business has been a driving force in shaping society and the catalyst behind extraordinary economic growth and opportunity. Business has spurred job creation, generated wealth, and improved the economic prospects for growing and increasingly diverse populations." LeClair adds that great management talent and practices have been integral to the success of nations in a global economy and quality schools of business have played no small part. They have educated generations of leaders capable of profound global achievements. Business students of today are taking heed—they seek nothing less than to change the world.

Editorial provided by AACSB International. AACSB International is a professional development association and accrediting body for business schools.

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# Engineering Programs

## A Wide Array of Disciplines

Engineering education is drawing record numbers of students to the United States from around the globe with good reason. Those with an engineering education possess the ability to make a real difference in their world, whether it be a local environmental improvement project, designing and developing artificial organs, or designing vehicles of the future for a major manufacturer. The broad range of careers available to engineers, and the rising demand for those with technical knowledge, make those with an engineering degree highly desirable to employers.

### Preparation

When trying to decide which engineering program best meets your needs or interests, you may want to take part in an exploratory program while in high school. Many universities and colleges in the United States offer workshops and summer programs geared specifically toward high school students. Students may stay in the residence halls, experience campus life and get exposure to various engineering fields. Some programs focus on specific engineering areas where by participants have a more in-depth experience working in laboratories and even visiting area companies for tours.

Another suggestion for preparation is to tour companies in your home town or country that employ engineers. Ask questions about what types of engineers they employ. Knowing what employers want is one of the keys to a successful

job search after you obtain your degree. Keeping abreast of the needs of business and industry is also something that universities and colleges strive for to ensure the education that they are providing will be useful to today's society and beyond.

One aspect of education at American universities on which international students often comment is the freedom to express their ideas in classroom or laboratory discussions as well as their access to faculty. One of the things to investigate when choosing a university is the student-to-faculty ratio, which can give you some indication of how much individual attention you can expect. Another aspect is whether the university utilizes teaching assistants, who are usually graduate students.

Because English is often not the first language of the international student, it is important to inquire as to the services available at a university that will help you succeed. Students may wish to improve their English language skills through grammar instruction, vocabulary building, pronunciation, and conversational skills.

In addition, information, advice, and support are offered to help students adapt to American culture and campus life.

If you, like many international students, are interested in gaining some relevant work experience while in college, you will need to ask questions about the strength of a university's internship program. Having some work

experience in the engineering field not only increases your marketability after graduation but also helps you build important relationships with business and industry. These arrangements are made after you are enrolled and attending school.

### Choosing An Engineering Program

Whatever engineering discipline you choose, an engineering education is recognized as an excellent preparation for a wide spectrum of career choices. Some engineers choose to work in a research setting and some work in the manufacturing sector. Others augment their education with a business background to join the ranks of management or start their own high-tech company. Moreover, engineering is an excellent base of knowledge from which students often springboard into studying business, law or medicine. This range is possible because of the breadth of subjects that an undergraduate engineering degree program provides in the areas of arts, social sciences, history, and humanities.

### AEROSPACE ENGINEERING

includes work in the aircraft and parts and guided missile and space vehicle manufacturing industries. They design, analyze, model, simulate, and test aircraft, spacecraft, satellites, missiles, and rockets. Aerospace engineers also apply their knowledge to related fields such as automated mass transportation, bioengineering, medical systems, environmental engineering, and communications.

**ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING** can be defined as a collection of disciplines related to the technical aspects of building design and construction. Students learn how to apply knowledge of mathematics and natural

sciences to the development of ways to use the materials and forces of nature in the engineering design and construction of buildings and their environmental systems. Architectural engineers work in every stage of the building process from design concepts and structural integrity to building operating systems and overall functionality.

### BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

combines engineering expertise with medical needs for the enhancement of health care. The field attracts students who have a deep concern for people as well as the sciences and technologies that might be used to help them; prefer activities that relate to machines, methods, and processes of medicine; enjoy biology, anatomy and physiology as much as math, physics and chemistry. Biomedical engineers are research facilities of educational and medical institutions.

### CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

applies the principles of chemistry and engineering to solve problems involving the production or use of chemicals. Chemical engineers use their knowledge of chemistry to discover and manufacture better plastics, paints, fuels, fibers, medicines, food and beverages, fertilizers, semiconductors, paper, and all other kinds of chemicals by carrying out chemical reactions and purifications. Chemical engineers work in a variety of settings including industry, laboratories, universities, consulting firms, engineering firms, law offices, and government agencies.

**CIVIL ENGINEERING** is the art and science of designing the infrastructure of a modern civilized society. Civil engineers design and supervise the construction of roads, buildings, airports, tunnels, dams, bridges, and water supply and sewage systems.

### **COMPUTER ENGINEERING**

programs are geared toward the design and application of computer systems, balancing hardware and software by integrating electrical engineering hardware topics with computer science software subjects. This broad background enables the computer engineer to contribute to the design, implementation, testing, maintenance and application of computer-based systems, from tiny embedded processors to large database and network servers.

### **ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING**

is one of the broadest and largest branch of the engineering profession. It covers new rapidly growing areas such as signal processing, artificial intelligence, fiber optic communications, and microcomputers as well as traditional areas such as circuits, controls, power, electromagnetics and instrumentation. Digital phones, personal computers and Global Positioning Systems are just a few of the high technology products that electrical engineers have developed.

### **INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING**

involves the integration of the resources of business and industry — the design of systems of materials, equipment and machines, procedures, information, energy, and people. Industrial engineering programs combine human relations with the technical knowledge needed to solve challenges in organization, process planning and evaluation, cost analysis, and quality control. Because of its high degree of interaction with people, the field tends to attract students with strong social and communication skills including those who: prefer activities that involve both technical and business aspects.

### **MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**

covers the design, development, analysis, control and testing of machines for converting energy from one form to another and for performing useful work. Students learn the fundamentals such as mechanics, thermodynamics heat transfer, electronic instrumentation and measurement, controls, and design. The field tends to attract students who enjoy activities involved with machines and other mechanical devices; can apply mathematical principles and basic principles of physics to projects; and who are able to direct projects.

### **SOFTWARE ENGINEERING**

is the application of engineering concepts, techniques, and methods to the development of software systems. Software engineering is based on computer science. However, it emphasizes process, design, measurement, analysis and verification, providing a strong foundation in engineering principles and practice as applied to software development. Because of the inherently social nature of contemporary software development, communication skills and teamwork are important.

Whatever discipline or university you choose, an engineering education is something that you will draw upon throughout your life as you pursue personal and professional fulfillment. Because of the accelerated evolution of technology, it is also important for engineers to continually enhance their knowledge base through continuing education and professional courses.

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Editorial provided by the Milwaukee School of Engineering.



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#### American Graduate Education

## What is a Pre-MBA Program?

Pre-MBA programs are designed to prepare International students or students with limited business education and experience to pursue an MBA degree. The program provides a basic understanding of business concepts and practices that are an essential part of the standard business curriculum for MBA programs in the United States.

Pre-MBA programs offer many benefits to students:

- Development of necessary study skills for success in graduate business schools
- Introduction to the nature of academic studies in the United States
- Improvement of business communication skills
- Basic orientation to United States business practices and terminology

Pre-MBA programs provide students with a strong academic foundation in business to help reach their personal and professional goals.

Editorial provided by The University of Dallas Graduate School of Management.

# Safety in the U.S.

## Tips for International Students

You have made an important and exciting decision to study in the U.S. and as you begin your planning to start your studies, there are some very important safety tips that will keep you safe.

Despite what you may have heard or have seen, the U.S. is not a dangerous country, in fact it is safe. No matter where you travel in the U.S. or abroad there are common threads of safety that you can string along in all your travels.

We are very fortunate that the majority of U.S. educational institutions have safety plans in place to protect you. Once you arrive on your campus you should check in with the international student office. This office will provide you with orientation sessions that will give you specific information that will enhance your educational, cultural, social and safety experience while studying in the U.S.

## Safety Tips for Students

### Your Surroundings

First, let me say regardless of where you travel you should always be “alert,” always observing your surroundings indiscreetly determining who is in front and behind you. Law enforcement states that many crimes could be avoided if people would just be “alert.”

### Night Company

You should avoid walking alone at night because most crimes that are committed are crimes of opportunity. Most campuses have campus police and are safe. However, when you leave the campus at night you should walk in groups or pairs. Many campuses have escort services connected with the campus police. Make sure when you arrive you ask if your campus have a campus safety escort service. If so, you should not hesitate to use it when you have to leave the library or lab late at night.

### Valuables

One of the most popular crimes on and off campus is larceny, which is the “crime of theft.” Never, ever leave your personal belongings (i.e. purse, personal computer, books, cell phone, etc.) unattended and walk away. It only takes seconds for someone to steal these while you walk to the rest room or to a vending machine. This rule also applies to automobiles—you should never leave wallets, purses, or computers visibly on your seat while you leave

## Did You Know...

Students from the leading four places of origin (India, China, Korea, and Japan) comprise 42% of all international students enrolled in the U.S. higher education.

2007 Open Doors/IIE Data Table



your car to get gas or go into a store. Even if your door is locked, people can break your car window and grab your valuables.

### Housing

Many campuses have different housing choices. Whether you live in a campus dormitory or off-campus, always lock your door and windows while you are away and at home. Never open the door for strangers—it is a part of the American culture to talk through doors without opening them if we don't know the person. If you didn't invite the person, don't open the door unless it is a law enforcement official. You will be able to tell when you look out of your window or through the door's "peep" hole. Even then, have the officer show you his or her official badge.

### Personal Information

Always protect your personal information like social security numbers and credit card numbers. Identity theft is a world-wide problem and comes in many forms. One major form is "scams." You may receive e-mails from phony companies asking for your personal information. Always remember that your bank and credit card company will always communicate to you in an honest, legitimate way. Remember, they already have your credit card and bank information, and they will never ask you for your password (except when you log on to your online banking site or telebank system). Secondly, if some-

one comes up to you and asks you if you want to learn how you can make some money, say "no," and quickly walk away.

Keep copies of your passports, visa, I-94 and other important documents.

Remember you have a lot of belongings to keep track of and it's easy to leave something behind during your travel. So, take your time and don't feel rushed. You do not want to accidentally leave your important documents at the airport, in the taxi or at one of the many places you will visit when you arrive.

My final tip for you is to remember that you are ultimately responsible for yourself. If safety information is not addressed as detailed as you prefer, don't hesitate to contact your international student office or the campus police directly. Your university is there to serve and help you. Many students have questions but are afraid to ask because they feel they are a burden. Remember, your university is in business to serve their students, and it is their pleasure and obligation to provide you with the information and resources you need to have a pleasant and successful study experience in the U.S.

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Editorial provided by Linda Seatts, Director of the Office of International Students and Scholars at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan.

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In America, you will rarely have to ask for extra ice for your drink. All cold drinks are served with lots of ice. Almost all hotels and dormitories have free ice machines available for your use.

# Being Money-Wise

## While Studying in the U.S.

Students who study abroad often regard it as the experience of a lifetime. It's a time when you can learn almost as much outside the classroom as within it. It can also be a time of extra expenses. But by creating a sensible budget and sticking with it, you can easily manage the financial side of studying abroad.

### Covering the Direct Costs of Education

When looking at the cost of studying in the United States, it's important to distinguish between direct costs—tuition, room and board, and any special fees—and indirect costs, which are more flexible, and cover just about everything else. Taking care of the direct costs should be your top priority. Funds for these could come from private or family sources, scholarships or loans.

Although it may seem obvious, it's important to remember that the best types of college funds are scholarships and grants because they do not have to be paid back. Be sure you apply for every scholarship for which you feel you are qualified.

After you have exhausted funds that do not need to be repaid, you may want to consider student loans to cover your remaining direct costs. As an international student, you will not be eligible for low-cost loans sponsored by the U.S. government. However, a wide variety of lenders, including Sallie Mae®, offer private, credit-based student loans that may be available to you.

Once you have your direct costs under control, make a budget for indirect costs, which are essentially living costs while you are in school. Because there

are strict limitations on off-campus employment for international students, you will need to show that you have enough funds to cover the entire academic year when you apply for your student visa.

### Managing the Indirect Costs

**Housing:** After you have been admitted, your institution's housing office will contact you with information on the availability of on and off-campus housing. If you decide to live off campus, you'll want to arrive several weeks ahead of the start of classes to begin searching for a place to live and get settled.

Depending on the type of housing you need and the location of your college or university, the cost of off-campus housing can vary considerably. In general, housing in large urban areas and on the West and East coasts is the most expensive. In addition to rent, you should also budget for furniture and other household essentials because most rentals in the United States are not furnished.

### SAVING TIP

**Consider getting a roommate to split the cost of rent.**

**Transportation:** If you will be using a car while you are in school, you should budget for operating expenses such as fuel, parking fees, and routine maintenance that will be incurred commuting to and from your institution. Carpooling can help reduce these expenses. But also look into the availability of public transportation—it may be more economical than having a car, particularly in urban areas. As an



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international student, you might also want to budget for airfare home during holidays and other academic breaks.

## SAVING TIP

**Many universities offer a free or low-cost shuttle bus service both on-campus and for the areas surrounding the school. Take advantage of it when you can.**

**Meals:** If you're an undergraduate, your college or university probably has a meal plan, and you should definitely use it. The food may not match home cooking, but it's convenient, nourishing, and could be the most economical way to eat while you're enrolled. If you have a family, meals may occupy a larger portion of your budget. If money is tight, try to eat as many meals at home as possible rather than at restaurants.

## SAVING TIP

**Use generic products instead of name brands; clip coupons; and pack a lunch rather than eating out.**

**Entertainment:** A big part of studying abroad is what you do outside the classroom. Be sure and budget some money for movies, snacks, concerts, short trips to visit friends, and other activities. A well-rounded student is one who effectively balances study and play.

## SAVING TIP

**Your student activity fee may entitle you to attend concerts, lectures, movies, and sporting events at a discount. Take advantage of these on-campus events.**

## Textbooks and School Supplies:

The best way to keep textbook costs low is to buy used ones. Most campuses have stores on campus or close to campus that sell used books, and you can also check campus bulletin boards for ads offering texts for sale. Be sure that the edition of the book you are buying matches the one that is required for the course.

## Miscellaneous costs

The international student advisor at your institution can help you with miscellaneous expenses such as health insurance (usually available at a low cost from your college or university) and visa processing fees. In addition, it's a good idea to budget for items such as utilities (if they are not covered by your rent), a mobile phone, clothing, Internet service, and even a small, general emergency fund.

## Managing credit cards

Even if you have the best intentions, a credit card—used freely—can ruin even the most carefully planned budget. Use your credit cards sparingly and only for items you really need. Try to pay the full balance off each month. And make sure you know what the interest rates and fees are. Sometimes just knowing how much extra you'll be paying if you make a late payment or carry a balance from month to month can provide the incentive for fiscal discipline.

This is an exciting time in your life. Make sound financial management a priority so that you can fully enjoy the uniquely rich learning experience of study abroad.

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# Take a Tip!

- I would recommend married students who plan to come here with their spouse make accommodation arrangements well in advance. Finding an apartment after coming here is not easy for couples, whereas students who are single can easily move in with others and share the apartment.
- Speak clearly and slowly so that people can understand you easily. Our English may be perfect, but our accent makes it difficult for people to understand us sometimes.



# Community College

## Start Your Bachelor's Degree in the U.S.

Choosing a college is one of the most important decisions you'll ever make! For many reasons, community colleges in the United States are the first choice for international students.

### Why International Students Choose Community Colleges

- Affordable tuition
- Smaller class sizes
- Easier entrance requirements
- To learn and improve English skills
- To earn a two-year associate degree
- To transfer into four-year colleges and universities

### Pathway to your Bachelor's Degree

There are more than 1,000 community colleges in the United States, enrolling nearly 6 million students each year with more than 500,000 associate degrees awarded annually. Many students begin their education at a community college and transfer to a four-year college or university to complete their bachelor's degree. Over the past four decades, many millions of students have taken advantage of this path to a bachelor's degree.

The path to your bachelor's degree is facilitated by agreements between community colleges and four-year colleges and universities. These official agreements identify which of the courses taught at the community college will meet both general education

and major course requirements at the college or university.

Most community colleges have transfer centers that help students to have a smooth transition to four-year colleges and universities. Applications, catalogs and other resource materials are available for student use. Transfer centers also set up times and events for students to meet with representatives from various colleges and universities to discuss transfer programs, the campus and majors.

### Affordable Option

In the United States, it takes approximately four years to earn a bachelor's degree from a college or university. It may take longer if a student needs to take English as a Second Language courses, remedial classes, or is studying a high unit major. Many students find that attending a community college for their first two years of study is a more affordable way to earn college credit while exploring and deciding which four-year college or university is best.

### Help Along the Way

It is advisable that all students work with counselors at the community college they choose to attend. Counselors are highly trained and are available to help students select the correct courses to meet their general education and major requirements. Counselors also assist students with the transition to life in the United States. Students work with counselors to discuss different campuses and transferring to the university or college of the student's choice.

## Relationships with Four-Year Colleges & Universities

Many four-year colleges and universities work very hard to strengthen relationships with community colleges in their area. For example, in California, the University of California, referred to as UC, welcomes community college students. The UC system and the California community colleges have developed programs to help community college students with the transfer process. Last year, more than 13,000 students transferred from California's community colleges to UC campuses. Close to one-third of all UC's bachelor degrees were awarded to students who started out at a community college.

## Support for International Students

Some community colleges offer special support services to help inter-

national students with transitioning to student life in America. For example, Sierra College in Rocklin, California has an International Students Office that provides services including admission assistance, new student orientation, USCIS status information, academic counseling, housing assistance, on-campus health center, transfer information and informational workshops.

As you explore and finally decide where to study, please consider the community colleges in the United States!

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Editorial provided by Cheryl Axton, International Students Counselor, Sierra College in Rocklin, California U.S.A.

Sources: U.S. Department of State, California Postsecondary Education Commission, University of California – Answers for transfers 2007-08

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# Choosing a Homestay

Choosing a Homestay while living in the U.S. can be a wonderful and enriching life experience as well as a cost-effective housing solution for international students. For “first-timers” who may be anxious about leaving their home country, the transition into a homestay with warm and welcoming English-speaking hosts can make for a less stressful transition and also be helpful with the student’s assimilation into American culture. Another benefit is the ability for students to practice their daily English conversational skills in a relaxed home environment.

Parents of international students may feel more comfortable sending their children off to study in the U.S. when they know that their child will be placed with a local area host family who has been “pre-screened” and “trained” to host an international student. When compared to apartment living, homestay is usually less expensive monthly and students do not have to buy furniture or towels and linens after they arrive. Most agencies will offer private or shared furnished rooms and a meal or no meal program. Utilities and Internet service is often included.

Many schools in the U.S. keep a list of Homestay Agencies that they recommend to potential students. If they do not, a student will need to search for one on their own. A simple Internet search will most likely yield a list of several agencies who offer placement. The job of the student and parents is to look for the agency that will work best for the student.

There are a few key essentials students should consider when choosing a Homestay Agency whether recommended by the school or sought out by the student.

A well-established agency will offer a “student-centered” approach to their students. Their staff will be responsive and timely with their communication from the beginning of a potential applicant’s inquiry to the day of their departure. There will also be a clear and concise homestay contract with flexible housing options as well as support throughout a student’s stay.

## Communication

From the get go, a student should feel that their questions, whether big or small, are being answered in a timely fashion. Typically, inquiries should be answered within 24 hours, keeping in mind an email sent on a holiday or weekend would be answered the next business day. Some typical questions a student might find helpful to ask prior to applying or when evaluating the services of a homestay agency might be: Will you be moved free of charge if you are not happy with your placement? How far will you be placed from school? Can I switch to a no-meal plan or meal plan housing option during my placement if I want? What is included in the monthly housing fee? Will I have access to the family’s computer or have TV in my room? What rules should I expect when I arrive in a host’s home? Many of these frequently asked questions will

be answered in the Homestay agency's contract, but if they are not they should be asked prior to applying. An agency that offers definitive and thoughtful answers will most likely prove to be a well-organized agency that will offer you a successful placement.

### Contract

Before committing to a program, make sure you thoroughly read and understand your homestay contract. Make note of the options you have after you check in or if you decide to check out earlier than you originally listed on your housing application. Most Homestay agencies will have a minimum amount of time a student must apply for, and if a student breaks their contract they could face a monetary loss. Always make a copy of the agency's contract to refer back to if needed.

### Support Throughout a Student's Stay

There should be 24/7 support from the homestay agency throughout a student's stay. A student should have a direct contact person who they can voice any questions or concerns to. Typically this would be a local housing coordinator who assigned the student's placement. However, it could be staff at the agency's office. After arrival, students should be reached out to by phone or email. The coordinator will want to know how you are getting along in your new home and if you are happy. They will most likely ask the host similar questions. This information will help them to evaluate how the placement is going. It is very impor-

tant for a student to know that should they have any concerns, they have a confidential platform in which to voice them. If there is a problem, the housing coordinator should act responsively and diplomatically to solve the issue. At the end of the student's stay, a confidential online survey or written evaluation should be completed about the host. If your agency does not supply one, you should feel free to email them and let them know how your experience was. It is essential for an agency to receive comments and feedback about their hosts first-hand. If a student's placement was successful, their evaluation will also be a nice "thank you" to the host family, as an agency will most likely want to place another student with the host.

Choosing to live in a homestay while studying in the U.S. will be, for all students, a period of adjustment. Our advice to new students thinking about this housing option is, although it may take awhile to become fully comfortable living in someone else's home and time to feel familiar with their new surroundings, it's important to keep an open mind and give themselves a good period of time to adjust. By doing this, a student will probably have a more culturally enriching experience and find that they have become a life-long part of another family's who cares for them like one of their own.

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Editorial provided by Cyndi Fox, Director of IHPS Homestays in Pasadena, CA.

*Uniquely American* → *Bottomless Cup Of Coffee*

Most restaurants will serve you as much coffee as you can drink at one sitting without charging you for the refills. There are some exceptions to this rule, especially at exclusive restaurants or for specialty coffees.

# Hospitality and Tourism

## Is a Career in Your Future?

According to the World Travel and Tourism Council, travel and tourism accounts for 8% of the world's jobs and has the highest potential for growth of any industry. International travel alone accounts for more than 840 million tourists annually. The economic, social and environmental impact of tourism is significant and vital to creating sustainable jobs and quality of life.

As a vast, dynamic and growing industry, hospitality and tourism provides tremendous opportunity for ambitious students who enjoy working with people. The hospitality and tourism industry operates in a highly competitive environment. It is important that those seeking careers as successful professionals develop a strong business foundation and customer service skills. Graduates of hospitality and tourism management programs are well rounded with a combination of business and life skills that are in high demand with employers.

While hospitality and tourism has traditionally been an industry that emphasized hands-on experience, the competitive nature of the business now requires a combination of experience and higher education to build a successful management career. To meet the needs of the industry, hospitality and tourism programs offered by colleges and universities have grown rapidly in the United States. Today programs are offered by a variety of vocational schools, community colleges and both public and private universities. Options range from short-term skills-oriented certificates to post-graduate degree programs.

With so many choices available, how do you choose the right school and program for you? Hospitality and tourism management programs offered in the U.S. vary. If you seek

### Hospitality and tourism represents a broad range of career opportunities in industries that include:

- hotels and resorts
- restaurants and commercial food service
- meeting and event planning
- tourism destinations and attractions
- leisure, recreation and sports management
- airlines, cruises and other transportation
- environmentally sustainable and cultural tourism development
- spa and wellness management

a bachelor's degree or higher, a community college or university will provide a well-rounded education with a specific industry focus designed to prepare students for management-level careers. Vocational schools generally offer a more hands-on training to prepare students for specific entry-level positions.

More Americans are enrolled in community colleges (also often called junior colleges or two-year colleges) than in any other institution of higher education in the U.S. Community college hospitality and tourism programs offer a variety of specialized certificate and associate's degree options as well as university transfer programs that allow students to complete a bachelor's degree. Because community colleges generally have lower tuition costs than four-year colleges and universities, many international students choose the community college to university transfer pathway (two-year associate's degree + two years at a university to complete a bachelor's degree).

What should you look for in choosing a hospitality and tourism management program that best suits your career goals? Some important questions to ask include:

- Does the school's curriculum meet your career objectives? Hospitality and tourism is a vast industry with many different career paths. If your career goal is to manage a large hotel or to work toward a senior management position with a well-known corporation, a bachelor's degree is generally required.
- Is the school located in a tourism destination with a strong representation of major hotels? What hotels, resorts and tourist attractions does the program draw from? Do leading industry employers recruit the school's graduates?
- What are the faculty's academic credentials and industry experience? Faculty in hospitality and tourism



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management programs often have advanced degrees in business, education or disciplines other than hospitality and tourism. A combination of academic achievement and management-level business experience are considered important qualifications for faculty in this industry.

- Is the program regionally accredited? Regional accreditation refers to the accrediting bodies that serve one of six geographic regions in the U.S. Each regional accrediting body is responsible for the majority of public and private higher education institutions in the area it serves. Regional accreditation is especially important if you plan to complete a bachelor's degree or higher. Some institutions also obtain specific professional accreditation.
- What support does the institution provide for international students? Does the school provide specific orientation and ongoing advisement for international students? Is there an international students' organization to support living and working together as an intercultural community?
- What opportunities does the institution provide for language study? Hospitality and tourism is a worldwide industry. An appreciation and understanding of other cultures and languages is essential to a successful career. Does the program provide opportunities to study other languages? Does the institution

provide ESL (English as a Second Language) courses that enable international students to expand their language skills while studying in the United States?



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The hospitality and tourism industry offers abundant opportunity for students seeking careers in a dynamic, international industry. If you possess strong communication skills and a desire to provide excellent service to others this fast-paced industry may be for you.

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Editorial provided by Mr. Larry L. Williams, MBA, Director of Hospitality and Tourism Management Programs at Scottsdale Community College in Arizona. Scottsdale Community College is one of the Maricopa Community Colleges.

# Higher Education in Georgia

## Georgia experiences rapid growth in international students

Georgia, one of the fastest growing states in the U.S., offers an incredible array of educational, professional, and cultural opportunities for college students. The University System of Georgia (USG) is composed of 35 colleges and universities, each offering a variety of opportunities and experiences. In fact, Georgia has one of the largest public university systems in the country, including two-year colleges, state colleges and universities, regional universities, and major research universities. With all of these choices, it is easy to find the undergraduate or graduate program that meets international students' needs. The University System also is home to two of the top 20 public research institutions in the entire country (the University of Georgia and Georgia Institute of Technology), as well as many private colleges. Georgia clearly has a lot to offer to international students.

More than 19,344 international students were enrolled in University System of Georgia institutions in the fall of 2007. The international student body accounts for nearly seven percent of the more than 270,000 University System of Georgia students. International student enrollment is highest at the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech), the University of Georgia, Georgia State University, Georgia Perimeter College, Kennesaw State University, and Southern Polytechnic State University.

These and other USG institutions are home to students from more than 194 countries, ranging from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. More students come from India, South Korea, and China than any other countries. We also host large numbers of students from Mexico, Nigeria, Vietnam, Canada, Columbia, Jamaica, and the United Kingdom.

## What Do They Study?

The University System of Georgia offers a wide range of first-rate academic programs leading to associate, baccalaureate, master's, professional, and doctorate degrees. Programs of study are available in virtually any field, including specializations in engineering, agriculture, technology, business administration, law, medicine, and the health sciences. Many institutions also offer special courses in English as a Second Language (ESL) and provide special support services for international students.

## Why Study in Georgia?

There are many reasons why so many international students choose to pursue their higher education in Georgia. Georgia offers a lower cost of living than that found in other regions of the U.S., which means that students' housing and living costs are dramatically lower than in other states. Tuition in the University System is quite reasonable compared to many other public institutions,



making high quality higher education options an even better deal. In addition, qualified international students may be eligible for partial tuition waivers or other financial assistance at some institutions.

Georgia has four distinct seasons, from mild winters to beautiful springs, balmy summers and crisp autumns. Its geographic riches are abundant,

with mountains for hiking and exploring, as well as the ocean and lakes for swimming and sunbathing. Savannah – Georgia’s first city – is one of the most scenic and historic cities in the southeast and serves as home to two University System of Georgia institutions. Athens, home of the University of Georgia, is a classic college town known for its alternative music scene (the B-52s and REM hail from Athens).

Georgia ranks third nationally in the number of public-supported higher education institutions. In addition to the University System, Georgia also supports a system of 33 public technical colleges and institutes. There also are more than 40 private colleges, universities and institutes in Georgia, including Emory University.

Georgia’s capital city of Atlanta is the transportation, commerce, retail and cultural hub of the entire southeast. With nearly 5 million people in the 38 counties surrounding the city, fast-growing Atlanta is home to many of America’s biggest and most well-respected companies, from international news powerhouse CNN to Coca-Cola, from international shipping giant UPS to Delta Airlines. With this corporate presence, internships and job opportunities can be plentiful. Hartsfield International Airport is the busiest airport in the world,



making international travel to and from other countries far easier than in other states. In addition, cultural and entertainment opportunities abound, from the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra to baseball champions the Atlanta Braves. Atlanta is also the home of the Georgia Aquarium, the world’s largest such facility.

As host of the 1996 Summer Olympic Games, Atlanta gained an international reputation as a great city that is friendly to all cultures. For decades, Atlanta has been referred to as “the city too busy to hate,” reflecting a positive attitude toward diversity. Atlanta is home to The King Center, the memorial to civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Atlanta also has the largest African-American middle class population in the country. In fact, the city’s racial diversity is greater than the nation’s as a whole.

With its outstanding universities, low cost of living, civic and cultural attractions, easy transportation, and great climate, it’s no wonder that more and more international students are choosing to study in Georgia each year.

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Editorial and photograph provided by The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

# Liberal Arts College

## A Gem to be Discovered

All too often, students cross the ocean to enroll at the first school they hear about or the first school to send the I-20. As you begin your college search, “Step One” is to learn about what makes higher education in the USA unique. There is no federal ranking system by which to judge or compare schools. The U.S. does not mandate a national curriculum for post-secondary education. There is a wide range of institutional types and educational philosophies that result in unique and autonomous educational systems and choices. Read about them to make sure you know an apple from a mango!

While not entirely unique to the United States, the small, private, residential Liberal Arts College is a gem to be discovered. About 200 private institutions fit into the Carnegie Classification of Baccalaureate College, Liberal Arts – where one of the most valued endeavors is to educate the “whole student.” A liberal arts education prepares students for a lifetime of meaningful and productive work, personal growth, and community leadership. Successful liberal arts students seek education for its own sake rather than limiting themselves to preparation for a specific job. There are four key characteristics that make this institutional type stand out in the marketplace of U.S. higher education:

### The Liberal Arts Curriculum

A liberal arts curriculum aims at imparting general knowledge and developing general intellectual capacities

in contrast to a professional, vocational, or technical training. Students are expected to become conversant in a broad range of disciplines without sacrificing the rigor of their major field. Regardless of specialty – business economics, psychology, art, computer science, or biochemistry, liberal arts students are taught to stretch and empower themselves to think and work beyond the confines of their discipline so that they can be leaders in our world for years to come.

*The way we ask and answer questions in a liberal arts school reflects the rapid changes that we see in our world. We teach and encourage what is unconventional. To answer important questions, like ‘How should countries cooperate and solve global warming?’ or ‘What product should my company create and market in the next four years?’ – we need interdisciplinary thinkers and problem solvers. Solutions will involve biologists, economists, political scientists and even historians! No single discipline has a monopoly on answering these questions.*

**Dr. Amyaz A. Moledina**  
Assistant Professor of Economics  
The College of Wooster (Ohio)

### The Choice to Remain Small

Baccalaureate Liberal Arts Colleges have made an informed and intentional choice to remain small. Many have total enrollments of fewer than 2,000 students. Two valuable statistics that are used to evaluate post-secondary institu-

tions are the “student-to-faculty ratio” and the “percent of full-time faculty with a terminal degree” – both particularly important for schools that have chosen to maintain teaching as their top priority. Top-tier Baccalaureate Liberal Arts Colleges boast student-to-faculty ratios as low as eight or nine students to each PhD-level faculty member. The majority of classes at these schools enroll fewer than 20 students per course, and there is a high value placed on the collaborative engagement between students and professors.

*Because I attended a small school, I knew my classmates and my teachers well. Classes were all about open discussions, critical dialogue, and creative writing. Attending a small liberal arts school helped me grow and communicate intellectually. I am also confident that my instructors will remember me when I need graduate school recommendations or professional references!*

Sangeeta K. Asre  
Colby College '07 (Maine)  
Davis Scholar, and a native of Fiji

### Private Not-for-Profit Status

Baccalaureate Liberal Arts Colleges are among our nation’s oldest post-secondary institutions. Many were founded with religious education and/or ethnic heritage at their core. While some continue to maintain these affiliations, others have loosened those ties or abandoned them altogether. Their once evangelical missions have, over the years, evolved into a passion for civic engagement and social responsibility. Celebrations of ethnic heritage have been sidelined in some settings, while other institutions have built those ties into colorful campus traditions that create meaning and unity among campus constituents.

These schools have maintained their not-for-profit status, which allows for philosophical autonomy and

fiscal independence. They are funded primarily through student fees, private grants, alumni donations and other benefactors who believe in their institutional mission. Most choose to invest in international education, on the premise that preparation of engaged, responsible global citizens is a core mission of liberal education. While comprehensive fees (tuition, room, and board) can be much higher than other post-secondary options, significant financial aid is often available to international students, making this top quality educational experience a realistic possibility for bright students from around the globe. Top ranking institutions, in terms of gift aid to international students, are often Baccalaureate Liberal Arts Colleges.

*One of the most important aspects of a liberal arts education is the opportunity to encounter differences — of opinion, values, religious faith, and cultural perspectives. This emphasis helps to explain why international students and scholars are such an important part of Liberal Arts Colleges, and why financial support for international students is a major investment of liberal arts institutions.*

Janet Alexander, Assistant Dean and Director (former), International Student Services, Grinnell College (Iowa)

### A Focus on Residential Community

Though the residential campus originated in Great Britain (i.e., Oxford and Cambridge), it has been perfected in the United States. On a residential campus, academic and social activity is conducted 24 hours a day and 7 days a week within a centralized living community. Students, as well as some staff and faculty, live, eat, study, and play within a self-contained college campus. Members of the campus community participate and engage in the learning process together – inside and outside of

the classroom. Learning and living are integrated and inseparable.

*Living within the campus community is a natural compliment to a liberal arts education. Most students 'live in' throughout their four-year program. Residence halls, special interest houses, and apartment-style facilities offer much more than a traditional dorm or boarding school. Our halls are programmed to enhance the educational experience and to encourage discussions and learning within themed living units - like our Environmental House, Global Awareness House, and a Fine Arts House. Our faculty and our students take the lead in these programmatic efforts and develop a valuable sense of community, belonging, camaraderie and security.*

Nancy Tavelli, Associate  
Dean of Students for Campus Life,  
Whitman College (Washington)

Finding the right school is like “finding a needle in a haystack” (to use a U.S.-American idiom). While these four characteristics provide the basic framework of a private Baccalaureate Liberal Arts College, do not assume that all of these schools are the same. Among these 200+ institutions, students will discover a wide variety of innovative programs, distinctive characteristics, and celebrated traditions that keep each place unique. For example, all students at Kalamazoo College (Michigan) are required to participate in Study Abroad. Students at Colorado College (Colorado) take only one class at a time; and students at Reed College (Oregon) receive written assessments rather than grades. All students at Berea College (Kentucky) work on campus to contribute to the community and to “earn” a portion of their educational costs. Smith College (Massachusetts) enrolls only women and Spelman (Georgia) is among our

nation’s Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Grinnell College (Iowa) is one of few institutions in the country based on a system of self-governance, and all students at The College of Wooster (Ohio) cap their degree with a full-year Independent Study project. Within every discipline, students at Augsburg College (Minnesota) encounter a credit-bearing opportunity to ‘Engage Minneapolis’—to establish their commitment to service learning and civic engagement. There are numerous examples of unique characteristics on individual campuses across the nation.

There are also many resources available to help you find the right school in the USA—and the Internet is one of the best. The Annapolis Group website provides information about top quality Liberal Arts programs: [www.collegenews.org/theannapolis-group](http://www.collegenews.org/theannapolis-group). Education USA Advisors are located all over the world to provide helpful tips from a local perspective: [www.educationusa.state.gov/centers](http://www.educationusa.state.gov/centers). Most schools have an International Admissions professional who is responsible to support inquiries from students living abroad—contact them! You should view your college search as the first, and perhaps most important, un-graded project of your college career. Enjoy your research. We look forward to meeting you next fall.

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Editorial provided by Karen Edwards, Assistant Dean and Director of International Student Services, Grinnell College, Grinnell Iowa. Karen currently serves as Assistant Dean and Director of International Student Services at Grinnell College, in Grinnell, Iowa. She served on the planning committee to establish a NAFSA Member Interest Group for ‘Liberal Arts Colleges: Small & Residential’.

# Film and Digital Media

## Behind the Spotlight

No matter where in the world you are located, a film and television degree often conjures up visions of Academy Awards and BAFTA Awards for some, while others dream of exotic set locales taken in from the comfort of a director's chair.

Certainly, a film and television degree can lead someone down either or both of those paths. However, the actual title of "film and television degree" does not do justice to film and digital media because the potential careers attached to this industry are not found solely behind a camera or a television screen. There are plenty of other careers in the world of film and digital media.

### Animation

Animators use more than pencils and paper to do their jobs. With the availability of advanced industry technology, animators can bring entire galaxies to life with the use of software such as After Effects, Premiere, Flipbook, Flash and Dreamweaver, Autodesk Maya, Anime Studio, Apple Shake and Pixar RenderMan.

### Careers

- 2-D and 3-D animator
- Digital cel animator
- 3-D animator
- Art director
- Character designer
- Composer
- Layout and background artist
- Mixed-media animator

- Animation producer
- Storyboard and concept artist
- Stop-motion animator
- Demo artist
- Technical director
- Illustrator
- Instructor

### Broadcast Design and Motion Graphics

Broadcast design and motion graphics professionals create main titles for television and film, commercials and network design, as well as design and animation for new formats such as cell phones and iPods.

### Careers

- Art director
- Teacher
- Instructor
- Demo artist
- Director
- Broadcast designer
- Creative director
- Motion design for film titles, cable and broadcast networks, new media, commercials

### Film and Television

Film and television professionals can be found on sound stages and sets but also in the advertising, corporate video production and new media sectors. They work with a variety of genres including narrative, documentary, experimental cinema, music video, television programming and short films.

## Careers

- **Producer, executive producer, line producer**
- **Director, casting director**
- **Screenwriter**
- **Director of photography**
- **Film and video editor**
- **Camera or Steadicam operator**
- **Lighting designer**
- **Videographer**
- **Grip or dolly grip**
- **Gaffer**
- **Postproduction supervisor**
- **Location manager**
- **Technical adviser**
- **Art director**
- **Production assistant**
- **Production manager**
- **Cinematographer**

## Interactive design and game development

Careers in interactive design and game development involve creating dynamically driven rich-media Internet applications, video games, virtual online environments and a variety of computer applications.

## Careers

- **Art director**
- **Interactive designer**
- **Creative director**
- **Creative technologist**
- **Exhibition designer**
- **Game artist**
- **Interactive installation artist**
- **Interface designer**
- **Level designer**
- **Programmer for projected media**
- **Web designer**
- **Instructional designer**
- **Concept artist**
- **Technical director**

## Performing arts

Performing arts degree-holders work in multimedia entertainment,

television, film and, of course, the performing arts in a variety of roles associated with acting, playwriting, casting, directing and management.

## Careers

- **Performer/actor, multimedia entertainer, model**
- **Stage manager**
- **Producer or designer - costume, scenic, lighting, set**
- **Agent - media relations/ publicity, casting**
- **Voiceover actor or narrator**
- **Playwright/scriptwriter**
- **Choreographer or stunt person**
- **Director - art, casting, technical**
- **Drama teacher or dramatic coach**
- **Impersonator**
- **News anchor**
- **Novelist**
- **Theater consultant**

## Production design

In the expanding field of programming for cable outlets, broadcast networks, independent filmmaking, digital video production, theme parks and other entertainment venues, production designers are in growing demand. Working behind the scenes on sets, lighting and costumes, production designers support productions for film, theater and television.

## Careers

- **Producer — studio film, television**
- **Designer — conference exhibition, restaurant, scenic, lighting, costume, retail, theme park, museum**

## Sound design

Sound designers, composers and mix engineers develop soundtracks for all types of media. Sound designers work specifically with dialog, sound

effects and Foley. Composers, music editors and music supervisors develop legal scores. Mix engineers prepare all three stems (dialog, SFX and music) for a variety of release formats.

## Careers

- ADR engineer
- Boom operator
- Foley sound effects artist
- Interactive and computer game sound designer
- Location sound mixer
- Editor — associate sound, dialog, music, sound
- Music recording engineer
- Music recording producer
- Radio program editor or producer
- Re-recording mixer
- Sound effects recorder
- Supervising sound designer
- Audio designer for Web and games

## Visual effects

Visual effects have become a commonplace tool for films, but also for television programs and commercials. Visual effects artists are employed to produce images that are either impossible or impractical to shoot in the real world. Visual effects artists at studios both large and small help filmmakers achieve their vision.

## Careers

- Composer
- Digital artist or effects animator
- Digital matte or texture painter
- Effects programmer
- Lighter
- Lighting technical director
- Modeler
- Pre-visualization artist
- Technical director
- Visual effects art director
- Visual effects supervisor
- Visual effects producer
- Broadcast graphic designer
- Demo artist

A career in film and digital media offers a little (or a lot) of something for everyone—not just future filmmakers and television producers. As the global community continues to get closer with tools such as the Internet, international cell phones and expanded air travel, jobs in film and digital media literally are available around the world.

If your home country doesn't have an institution that offers a degree within film and digital media, all you need is a passport, a plane ticket and a passion to dream big.

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Editorial provided by Emily Green, publications editor, Savannah College of Art and Design.

### *Uniquely American* → *Legal Age*

You must be 18 years old to purchase tobacco products, and 21 years of age to purchase and consume alcohol. Legal proof of age varies from state to state, though a valid passport or driver's license is usually acceptable. Also be aware that there are an increasing number of major U.S. cities enforcing smoking bans, restricting smokers in certain public places.

# Consider a Christian College

It has been reported by the U.S. Department of Education that the United States has about 4,000 degree-granting institutions of higher education, of which approximately 1,600 are private, nonprofit campuses. Within this group of 1,600 about 900 self-define themselves as “religiously affiliated”.

These “religiously affiliated” colleges include a variety of faiths as well as institutions that were founded by a religious denomination to which it may no longer hold any particular allegiance.

At present, there are only 102 intentionally Christ-centered institutions in the U.S. who have qualified for membership in the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities: [www.cccu.org/about/members.asp](http://www.cccu.org/about/members.asp). These institutions maintain their faith-based commitment by retaining Christian faculty and seeking to create a campus climate that promotes the spiritual development of students and that integrates faith into an accredited academic curriculum.

The National Association of Christian College Admissions Professionals ([www.naccap.org](http://www.naccap.org)) lists the reasons for applying to a Christian College:

- Challenging academics
- Smaller class sizes
- Sense of community
- Growth in all aspects of life
- More interaction with professors

- High academic quality
- Prepare your heart and mind for success
- Strengthen your walk with Christ
- It’s an education you can value
- Expand your world views with Christian principles and ideas
- Competitive financial aid packages

Interestingly, during the decade of the 1990-2000 the enrollment growth in U. S. colleges and universities was about 5.3% whereas for Christian colleges and universities in the Council it was nearly 37%. Clearly there is reason to at least consider these institutions if you have any desire to continue your faith development during your time of study in the U. S. This group of Christian colleges is a diverse one and so it is important to take the time to seek out the places that are most suited to your own unique set of needs and priorities.

Many international students begin their college search by using the Internet to find the places that offer the subjects they wish to study. Sometimes they start by searching for scholarship opportunities or connecting with a place their friends attend. In some cases families begin their search with the latest endorsements from rankings such as those compiled by U.S. News, The Princeton Review and Barons.



Those same options exist for this group of Christian colleges and universities. Both of the websites listed earlier in this article provide a list of these institutions, a link for conducting a personal search and other information that will enlighten your awareness of the diversity that exists within this unique group of institutions.

Here are some of the ways that Christian colleges and universities describe themselves:

- Rural or urban campuses
- Liberal Arts based curriculum vs. career centered
- B.A. or B.S. or M.A. or M.S. or Ph.D. or Ed.D or A.A degrees
- Size, location, number of students under 25, student to faculty ratio
- Sports teams, housing options, percentage of international students
- Admissions requirements and entrance difficulty
- Majors, minors, off campus programs, internship opportunities
- Scholarships and financial aid opportunities
- Graduate school and employment statistics

There are some additional things to consider when looking specifically at Christian Colleges. These are most apt to be described within each institution's website on their admissions pages and on their application forms. Some Christian colleges are more intensely defined by a particular theological or denominational affiliation and those are situations that are usually quite easy to identify.

- What denomination is it affiliated with and what are their basic tenants?
- What denominations are represented in their student body? Percentages?
- Is a personal statement of faith required to apply? Must an applicant be a Christian?
- What type of religion or Bible or theology classes are required and how many?
- Are there particular guidelines that students must follow for their conduct both on and off campus?
- Is there a requirement to attend chapel?

Once these criteria are examined and your list of choices is narrowed then compare the colleges' academic offerings as they relate to your major areas of interest. Look for off campus opportunities and internships. Is there evidence of research and mentoring opportunities with faculty? Does each major list evidence of the success of its graduates? Can you email someone on the faculty? Are their adequate facilities to support the major you are pursuing? Does the faculty have strong degrees and are they full-time vs. part-time or adjunct? What are the options for OPT and CPT experiences?

Do not allow for anyone to tell you that these colleges are second rate academically—many of them can be found at the top of those lists that endorse the "best places" to study in the U.S. and their graduate school placement records are competitive

Look up the Best Semesters Program which the Council created by combining efforts among their member institution in order to provide some very unique experiential education opportunities: [www.bestsemester.com](http://www.bestsemester.com).

The final step is to look for information to help you learn more about the campus climate. Is it welcoming to international students? Read over the website for International Admissions to see what the application process is like and to find out more about the international community at each institution. Several of these colleges are ranked among the top in the U.S. for the number of international students on their campus. Check to see if the college has special funds for missionary kids, pastor's kids and for international students in general.

Are there organizations on campus like an International Students' Association or a Mu Kappa Club Chapter? What activities are these groups sponsoring? What types of resources exist for advising, counseling, medical assistance and academic support? Are there housing options that exist for international students during summer and holiday breaks?

Is the city large enough to include ethnic groceries stores and other resources that you might desire? How easily can an international student find employment on campus? Can you email with an international student from this college? Be certain to ask about the spiritual as well as social growth opportunities

In summary, the reason to consider a Christian college is for adding potential value to your educational experience in the U.S. The campus community created at these unique colleges and universities may be just what you are seeking because Christian higher education challenges and fosters a connection of faith and learning.

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Editorial provided by Rosemary Mason Etter, Assistant Director of Admissions, International Admissions at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan USA. Calvin College was a recipient of one of NAFSA's Paul Simon Awards, 2006.

# Take a Tip!

- When you come to US, bring along loads of positive outlook, enthusiasm, and a motivated mind and body. This country is very different from your home country, but may not be the way it is perceived back home. You may find events and happenings that are not per your expectations, but don't be bogged down by that. Americans can be very helpful, warm, kind, and compassionate, but be ready for surprises and excitement.

- Attend the international student orientation, and feel free to ask questions as they are more than willing to help you.

- Teach yourself and your parents how to use SKYPE—it's the cheapest and easiest way to stay in touch since most colleges have free internet facilities.

- As a part of the mandatory health regulations imposed by every university, each student should ensure that he/she is adequately immunized and carrying all the medical documents to prove the immunization record.

- Most international students face similar problems as you. Feel free to share and explain any difficulties or hardships you are experiencing with others.

- The best way of getting over the loneliness of moving away from family is to get together with people of your age and culture.

# Higher Education in California

California is proud of the rich diversity of its top-rated universities, which offer highly respected programs to students from around the world. Students can earn state-recognized degrees or certificates at 455 colleges and universities within the state. A large number of universities and independent language institutes offer programs in English as a Second Language.

## California Community Colleges

California's community colleges constitute the largest educational system in the world, providing service to more than a million students each year in 108 colleges.

Since 1908, these institutes have ceased to be mere secondary schools or junior colleges offering vocational courses. They have become comprehensive community colleges offering outstanding educational opportunities to meet diverse local, educational and technical needs.

Many of these schools are attractive to international students because of their proximity to U.S. borders (community colleges in San Diego), the variety of their academic programs (graphic design and animation in Santa Monica, applied technology in Santa Clara and San Jose, and agribusiness in Monterey and Fresno), or their reputation for preparing students for a successful transition to highly selective universities.

California's community colleges are located in various areas around the state at a convenient distance (30 or 40

minutes) from the largest cities. Some 1.6 million students were enrolled in Community Colleges in California in Fall, 2006.

## California State University

California State University (CSU) is the second largest public educational system in the state in size and diversity, with a student population of more than 417,000 on 23 campuses across the state in Fall 2006.

The principal role of CSU is to provide undergraduate instruction and advanced degree programs in more than 200 fields, such as liberal arts and sciences and pre-career training for professions, for example, business administration and education. Academic research by faculty members in their disciplines is encouraged. The State University also offers doctoral programs in conjunction with other public and private universities and independently offers doctoral instruction in educational leadership.

CSU has campuses in various areas of the state: Humboldt (the farthest north), Chico, Sacramento, Sonoma, Vallejo (the only maritime program), San Francisco, East Bay (formerly Hayward), San Jose, Stanislaus, Monterey Bay (the only campus to be converted from a military base into an educational institution fully equipped to meet the academic needs of its students), Fresno, Bakersfield, San Louis Obispo, Northridge, Channel Islands, Pomona, Los Angeles, Dominguez Hills, San Bernardino, Long

Beach, Fullerton, San Marcos and San Diego (the farthest south).

### **The University of California**

The University of California, enrolling more than 214,000 students in Fall 2006, is one of the most prestigious institutions of higher learning in the world. The main public research university in the state, it offers a variety of degree programs in many fields and exclusive Master's degree programs in areas such as dentistry, medicine, law and veterinary medicine. It is also the only state institution to offer doctoral programs, except in fields where the doctoral degree is awarded jointly with CSU or in educational leadership, which is offered independently by CSU.

A large number of international students have been and continue to be attracted to the University of California because of the highly respected quality of its programs leading to research, master's and professional degrees. Its campuses are located in the most beautiful historic areas of California: Davis (the farthest north), Berkeley, San Francisco (the only medical science campus in the north), Santa Cruz, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, Riverside, Irvine, and San Diego (the farthest south). The University of California recently opened a new tenth campus in the city of Merced. Among the faculty are professors of all disciplines who are recognized as experts both nationally and internationally.

### **Private Colleges and Universities**

Some 130 universities and independent institutes accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges offer educational opportunities on 242 campuses in the state.

These accredited private institutions of higher learning range from universities with a world-wide reputation such as Stanford, California Institute of Technology and the University of Southern

California to less well known colleges and professional institutes oriented toward future practitioners of various professions. Of these 130 institutions, 106 offer four-year programs, while the remaining 24 are two-year colleges. Enrollment varies from 200 to 27,000 students. Faculty members are among the most respected in their fields.

### **Mind, Body, Soul**

One can easily be overwhelmed by the countless intellectual and research opportunities available in the extraordinary California state system of public and private institutions of higher learning. Exposure to significant authors, world-class musicians, companies that stretch the frontiers of technology and computer applications, together with the chance to become active in community service, all are within reach across the state.

Recreational activities also abound. One can visit the birthplace of Mickey Mouse and his friends in Disneyland, located in Anaheim, California as well as various theme parks from Knott'sberry to Magic Mountain to Marine World/Africa USA. For the more "relaxed" student, California offers literally thousands of miles of beaches on its 900-mile coast. For the more daring, there are many mountains to climb, rapids to ride, and world-class skiing sites to enjoy during the winter months. For lovers of the fine arts and culture, there are San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego, which rank among the best for theater, museums, and cuisine.

You will find all your heart desires in the "Golden State". In short, there's no place like California to cultivate a sound mind, a healthy body and a free spirit!

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Editorial provided by Dr. Charles A. Ratliff, CPEC (California Post Secondary Education Commission).

# Campus Lingo

Common Words & Phrases Used by American Students

## Ace

To do very well, receive the grade of an "A". *Example: "I feel like I aced my math test!"*

## All-Nighter

To put off studying until the night before an exam or deadline. *Example: "John pulled an all-nighter to get his paper finished."*

## B.A. or B.S.

B.A. stands for "Bachelor of Arts" and B.S. stands for "Bachelor of Science". Both degrees can be earned at four-year colleges.

## Beer Pong

*Alternatives: Beirut, Lob Pong or Scud*  
An American drinking game common at some college parties. It involves throwing a ping pong ball across a table with the aim of making the ball land in one of several cups of beer.

## Bounce

To leave. *Example: "I have to bounce—I have to go home to study."*

## Bouncer

Security guard at bar or club.

## Buzz Kill

When someone or something ruins a special moment. *Example: "My mom was a buzz kill and made me stay home to do chores."*

## Chick

Young attractive woman (the expression may be seen as derogatory). *Example: "I have my eye on the chick across the room."*

## Cramming

Intensive memorization in a short period of time — usually done by a student preparing for a school examination. *Example: "I'm always stuck cramming for that professor's class."*

## Crash

1. To sleep. *Example: "I crashed on the couch last night."*

2. A common term for a computer fault. *Example: "My hard drive crashed and I lost my term paper!"*

## Credits

A unit that gives weighting to the value, level or time requirements of an academic course. Various systems of credits exist: one per course, one per hour/week in class, one per hour/week devoted to the course (including homework), etc.

## Cut

To purposely miss class. *Example: "Joe cut class in order to attend a concert."*

## Dude

An informal term of address, usually referring to a man or boy. *Example: "Hey dude! I haven't seen you on campus in forever!"*



## Elective

An academic course chosen by the student from a set of options, as opposed to a required course.

## Final

Exam given to students at the end of a particular academic term, typically a semester, or more traditionally at the end of a complete degree course.

## Flunk

To fail. *Example: "I totally flunked that math exam!"*

## Frat

Short for "fraternity," referring to all-male or mixed-gender social organization.

## Freshman

*Alternatives: frosh, newbie, freshie, or fresh-meat*

A first-year student in college or university.

## Have a good one!

Short for "Have a good day/evening."

## Homey, Homes or Homeboy

Generally refers to a close friend, usually a male friend who exhibits strong loyalty. Derived from hip-hop and rap music. *Example: "Jack and I go way back — he's my homey."*

## Hoodie

A sweatshirt with a hood. *Example: "May I borrow your hoodie? I'm cold."*

## Hottie

A very attractive person. *Example: "My girlfriend is a real hottie!"*

## Junior

A student in the penultimate (usually third) year in college or university.

## Jock

A classic American stereotype of an athlete.

## Kegger

A party attended by students where the main purpose is to consume beer out of a keg. *Example: "My frat is throwing a huge kegger tonight, you have to go!"*

## Major

A college or university student's main field of specialization during his or her undergraduate studies.

## Mid-term

Exam given in the middle of a term or semester to measure students' progress and comprehension of course material.

## Minor

Secondary focus of a student's studies.

## Nerd

*Alternatives: geek or dork*

A stereo-typical designation, referring to somebody who passionately pursues intellectual knowledge or pastimes, rather than engaging in a social life or other main-stream activities. *Example: "Bob is such a nerd, he reads instead of going to parties."*



## Pad

A place to live. *Example: "Let's go back to your pad and study."*

## Party Animal

Someone who loves fun and parties.

## Peace or Peace Out

A friendly phrase to say goodbye.

*Example: "Peace out, guys. I'm going home."*

## Prof

Short for "professor".

## Psyched

To be excited or looking forward to an event. *Example: "I'm so psyched to get my pay check!"*

## Quiz

A form of student assessment that often has fewer questions of lesser difficulty and requires less time for completion than a test or exam.

## Senior

A student in the last (usually fourth) year at a college or university.

## Sophomore

A student in the second year of study at a college or university.

## Sorority

A women's social organization, comparable to a male fraternity.

## Syllabus

A professor's outline of the class highlighting assignments, test dates, policies and textbooks.

## Term

A division of an academic year, the time during which a college or university holds classes. These divisions may be called *terms*, *semesters*, *quarters*, or *trimesters*, depending on the institution.

## Wasted

*Alternatives: hammered or smashed*  
To be intoxicated or drunk. *Example: "He was so wasted when he left the bar."*

## What's up? or Wassup?

An informal expression meaning "What are you doing?", "How are you?", or "What is happening?".

## Work-study

Programs that allow students to work, often on campus, as part of their financial aid package.

## 24/7

All of the time. Derived from the fact that there are 24 hours in a day and 7 days in a week. *Example: "It seems like I am at my desk 24/7."*

*Definitions adapted from Wikipedia®*



# Resources and Information for International Students

## Education Resources

### **Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology**

2101 Wilson Blvd. #302  
Arlington, VA 22201  
703-247-4212 • fax 703-247-4533  
[www.accsct.org](http://www.accsct.org)

### **American Association of Community Colleges**

One Dupont Circle, NW, Ste. 410  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-728-0200 • fax 202-833-2467  
[www.aacc.nche.edu](http://www.aacc.nche.edu)

### **American Society for Engineering Education**

1818 N Street NW #600  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-331-3500 • fax 202-265-8504  
[www.asee.org](http://www.asee.org)

### **American-Mideast ETS**

1730 M St. NW, Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20036-4505  
202-776-9600 • fax: 202-776-7000  
[www.amideast.org](http://www.amideast.org)

### **The Asia Foundation**

465 California St., 9th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
415-982-4640 • fax: 415-392-8863  
[www.asiafoundation.org](http://www.asiafoundation.org)

### **Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc.**

PO Box 514070  
Milwaukee, WI 53203-3470  
414-289-3400 • fax: 414-289-3411  
[www.ece.org](http://www.ece.org)

### **Educational Testing Services (ETS®)**

Rosedale Road  
Princeton, NJ 08541  
609-921-9000 • fax 609-734-5410  
[www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org)

### **Institute of International Education (IIE)**

809 United Nations Plaza  
New York, NY 10017-3580  
212-883-8200 • fax 212-984-5452  
[www.iie.org](http://www.iie.org)

### **International School Services (ISS)**

15 Roszel Road, P.O. Box 5910  
Princeton, NJ 08543  
609-452-0990 • fax: 609-452-2690  
[www.iss.edu](http://www.iss.edu)

### **International Student House**

1825 R Street NW  
Washington, DC 20009  
202-232-4007 • fax: 202-387-4115  
[www.ishdc.org](http://www.ishdc.org)

### **NAFSA: Association of International Educators**

1307 New York Ave NW, 8th FL  
Washington, DC 20005-4701  
202-737-3699 • fax: 202-737-3657  
[www.nafsa.org](http://www.nafsa.org)

### **National Council for International Visitors (NCIV)**

1420 K Street, N.W., Ste. 800  
Washington, DC 20005  
202-842-1414 • fax: 202-289-4625  
[www.nciv.org](http://www.nciv.org)

### **National Society of Professional Engineers**

1420 King Street  
Alexandria VA 22314-2794  
703-684-2800 • fax 703-836-4875  
[www.nspe.org](http://www.nspe.org)

### **The Rotary Foundation of Rotary Int'l**

One Rotary Center  
1560 Sherman Avenue  
Evanston, IL 60201  
847-866-3000 • fax 847-328-8554  
[www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)



### World Learning

Kipling Rd., P.O. Box 676  
Brattleboro, VT 05302-0676  
802-257-7751 • fax: 802-258-3248  
www.worldlearning.org

### U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration

**Services (BCIS)** Formerly U.S. Immigration and  
*Naturalization Service (INS)*  
800-375-5283  
www.uscis.gov

### Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)

700 S Washington St., Ste 200  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
703-836-0774 • fax 703-836-7864  
www.tesol.org

### U.S. Department of State

2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520  
202-647-4000  
www.state.gov

## Travel Resources

### AIRLINES

**Air Canada:** 888-247-2262  
www.aircanada.com

**Delta:** 800-221-1212  
www.delta.com

**Northwest:** 800-225-2525  
www.nwa.com

**Air France:** 800-237-2747  
www.airfrance.com

**Gulf Air:** 888-359-4853  
www.gulfair.com

**Qantas:** 800-227-4500  
www.qantas.com

**Air India:** 800-223-7776  
www.airindia.com

**Iberia:** 800-772-4642  
www.iberia.com

**Royal Jordanian:** 800-223-  
0470 • www.rja.com.jo

**Alitalia:** 800-223-5730  
www.alitalia.com

**Japan:** 800-525-3663  
www.jal.com

**Saudi Arabian:** 800-472-8342  
www.saudiairlines.com

**American:** 800-433-7300  
www.aa.com

**KLM Royal Dutch:** 800-225-  
2525 • www.klm.com

**Singapore:** 800-742-3333  
www.singaporeair.com

**British Airways:** 800-247-9297  
www.britishairways.com

**Kuwait Airways:** 800-458-9248  
www.kuwait-airways.com

**United:** 800-864-8331  
www.united.com

**Continental:** 800-525-0280  
www.continental.com

**Lufthansa German:** 800-645-  
3880 • www.lufthansa.com

**US Airways:** 800-428-4322  
www.usairways.com

### CAR RENTAL

**Alamo:** 800-462-5266  
www.alamo.com

**National:** 800-227-7368  
www.nationalcar.com

**Rent-a-Wreck:** 800-944-7501  
www.rentawreck.com

**Avis:** 800-331-1212  
www.avis.com

**Payless:** 800-729-5377  
www.paylesscarrental.com

**Thrifty Car Rental:** 800-847-  
4389 • www.thrifty.com

**Budget:** 800-527-0700  
www.budget.com

**Dollar:** 800-800-3665  
www.dollar.com

**Enterprise:** 800-261-7331  
www.enterprise.com

**Hertz:** 800-654-3131  
www.hertz.com

### Bus Lines

Greyhound:  
800-231-2222  
www.greyhound.com

### Railway

Amtrak:  
800-872-7245  
www.amtrak.com

## HOTEL & MOTEL CHAINS

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**Best Western:** 800-780-7234  
www.bestwestern.com

**Choice Hotels:** 877-424-6423  
www.choicehotels.com  
(*Clarion Hotels, Cambria Suites, Comfort Inns, Comfort Suites, Econo Lodges, MainStay Suites, Rodeway Inns, Sleep Inns, Suburban Hotels & Quality Inns*)

**Hilton Hotels:** 800-445-8667  
www.hilton.com

**Holiday Inn:** 888-465-4329  
www.holiday-inn.com

**Howard Johnson's:** 800-446-4656 • www.hojo.com

**Hyatt Hotels:** 888-591-1234  
www.hyatt.com

**Inter-Continental:** 800-424-6835 • www.interconti.com

**La Quinta Inns & Suites:** 800-753-3757 • www.laquinta.com

**Marriott Hotels:** 888-236-2427  
www.marriott.com

**Radisson Hotels:** 888-201-1718 • www.radisson.com

**Ramada Inns:** 800-272-6232  
www.ramada.com

**Red Roof Inns:** 800-733-7663  
www.redroof.com

**Sheraton Hotels:** 800-325-3535 • www.sheraton.com

**Super 8 Motels:** 800-800-8000  
www.super8.com

**Travelodge:** 800-578-7878  
www.travelodge.com

**Westin Hotels:** 800-937-8461  
www.westin.com

## VACATION/TRAVEL INFORMATION BY STATE

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**Alabama:** 800-ALA-BAMA  
www.touralabama.org

**Alaska:** www.travelalaska.com

**Arizona:** 866-275-5816  
www.arizonaguide.com

**Arkansas:** 877-727-3468  
www.state.ar.us

**California:** 800-862-2543  
www.visitcalifornia.com

**Colorado:** 800-COLORADO  
www.colorado.com

**Connecticut:** 800-CT-VISIT  
www.ctvisit.com

**Delaware:** 866-284-7483  
www.visitdelaware.com

**Florida:** 877-679-9330  
www.florida.com

**Georgia:** 800-VISIT-GA  
www.georgia.org

**Hawaii:** 808-587-4220  
www.hawaii.gov

**Idaho:** 800-VISIT-ID  
www.visitidaho.org

**Illinois:** 800-2-CONNECT  
www.enjoyillinois.com

**Indiana:** 800-677-9800  
www.visitindiana.com

**Iowa:** 888-472-6035  
www.traveliowa.com

**Kansas:** 800-2-KANSAS  
www.travelks.com

**Kentucky:** 800-225-8747  
www.travel.ky.gov

**Louisiana:** 800-677-4082  
www.louisianatravel.com

**Maine:** 888-624-6345  
www.visitmaine.com

**Maryland:** 866-639-3526  
www.mdisfun.org

**Massachusetts:** 800-227-MASS  
www.mass-vacation.com

**Michigan:** 800-644-2489  
www.michigan.org

**Minnesota:** 888-868-7476  
www.exploreminnesota.com

**Mississippi:** 866-SEE-MISS  
www.visitmississippi.org

**Missouri:** 800-519-2100  
www.missouritourism.com

**Montana:** 800-VISIT-MT  
www.visitmt.com

**Nebraska:** 877-NEBRASKA  
www.visitnebraska.org

**Nevada:** 800-NEVADA-8  
www.travelnevada.com

**New Hampshire:** 800-653-9564  
www.visitnh.gov

**New Jersey:** 800-VISITNJ  
www.state.nj.us

**New Mexico:** 800-773-6396  
www.newmexico.org

**New York:** 800-CALL-NYS  
www.iloveny.com

**North Carolina:** 800-VISIT-NC  
www.visitnc.com

**North Dakota:** 800-435-5663  
www.ndtourism.com

**Ohio:** 800-BUCKEYE  
www.discoverohio.com

**Oklahoma:** 800-652-6552  
www.travelok.com

**Oregon:** 800-547-7842  
www.traveloregon.com

**Pennsylvania:** 800-VISIT-PA  
www.visitpa.com

**Puerto Rico:**  
www.puertorico.com

**Rhode Island:** 800-556-2484  
www.visitrhodeisland.com

**South Carolina:** 866-224-9339  
www.discoversouthcarolina.com

**South Dakota:** 800-SDAKOTA  
www.travelsd.com

**Tennessee:** 615-741-2159  
www.tnvacation.com

**Texas:** 800-888-8TEX  
www.traveltex.com

**Utah:** 800-200-1160  
www.utah.com

**Vermont:** 800-VERMONT  
www.travel-vermont.com

**Virginia:** 800-VISIT-VA  
www.virginia.org

**Virgin Islands:** 800-327-USVI  
www.usvitourism.vi

**Washington:** 800-544-1800  
www.experiencewa.com

**Washington, D.C.:** 202-789-7000  
www.washington.org

**West Virginia:** 800-CALL-WVA  
www.wvtourism.com

**Wisconsin:** 800-432-8747  
www.travelwisconsin.com

**Wyoming:** 800-225-5996  
www.wyomingtourism.org

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