

A. Admission

All international students must submit a written application and must be 18 years of age or old by the first day of class. Priority application deadline for the fall semester (August) is July 1. Spring semester (January) application deadline is November 15.

A recent photograph (for identification purposes) must be submitted with the application forms. After the application process is completed and approved, the college will issue a Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) I-20 (Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant F-1 Student Status), when appropriate.

Prior to acceptance, F-1 transfer students from other colleges or universities in the United States are required to present a transfer release from the previous college(s) showing that they left in good F-1 visa status. Institute for International Perspectives (IIP) will consider accepting transfer students with a terminated SEVIS record only if they meet the following two criteria: (1) student meets criteria for reinstatement as outlined in F-1 visa regulations, and (2) terminated F-1 student is approved for admission from the dean of admissions and student support.

B. Academic Achievement Required for Admission

International students must be high school graduates and demonstrate academic achievement by showing eligibility for admission to a college or university in their home country or at least a "C+" high school average (2.5 grade-point average on a 4.0 scale) and demonstrate the equivalent of a high school diploma. Transcripts from all previous education (including at least three years of high school or equivalent and any postsecondary coursework) must be on file with an English translation before the application will be considered for full admission. Academic achievement for students with a transcript showing one year of college-level academic course work will be considered for admission based upon their college grade-point average of at least a 2.0. If students do not meet the academic achievement requirements for admission, conditional admission may be considered. Documents to be reviewed include, but are not limited to, letters of recommendation, explanation for failure to meet minimum criteria, and a statement of purpose. For international students seeking consideration for conditional acceptance, letters of recommendation should indicate the student has adequate English and academic skills necessary for success in a California community college. Conditional admission must be approved by the dean of admissions and student support, or the dean's designee.

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Effective Date: 2/16/10, 9/10/13
Periodic Review: 3/12/20
References: Education Code §§76141, 76142
Title 5, §54045
Title 8, U.S. Code §§1101. et seq.
CCLC Update: --
Steering: VPSS

C. English Language proficiency

Only international students who are proficient in the English language will be admitted to MiraCosta College. An official Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of 450 (133 on the computer-based TOEFL test, 46 on the internet-based TOEFL) is required for those applicants whose native language is not English. MiraCosta will also accept a score of 5.5 on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) or an official STEP score showing passing results in Grade Pre-1. If the TOEFL has been completed by the application deadlines but scores have not been received, the language proficiency of the applicant can be evaluated by the lead ESL instructor.

Completion of conditional acceptance requirements at approved ESL schools will also be accepted as proof of English proficiency for admittance purposes.

All first-time international students at MiraCosta College must take the MiraCosta English proficiency examination prior to registration. If the test results show a student does not qualify for MiraCosta's freshman English, the student must enroll in a remedial English writing course in their first semester at MiraCosta College. All first-time international students at MiraCosta College must attend an orientation session before registering.

D. Financial Resources

Each international student must furnish a financial statement in U.S. currency indicating the ability to pay the equivalent of one year's expenses in U.S. dollars. Estimate of expenses will be calculated by the IIP and will include tuition and fees for a minimum of twelve (12) units each semester, cost for room and board based upon placement with a home-stay family, required health insurance premiums, estimates for books and personal expenses, and transportation costs for a monthly bus pass. International students are subject to the nonresident tuition fee in addition to all other enrollment fees. International students may also be subject to a capital-outlay fee.

E. Grading Standards

All international students are subject to the same grading and academic standards as native students. International students who fail to maintain and complete twelve (12) units in a semester with at least a 2.0 grade-point average will be placed on probation and must meet with an academic counselor. Students dismissed by the district will not be allowed to enroll again until they appeal to the MiraCosta Committee on Exceptions for permission to re-enroll or successfully complete twelve (12) semester units at another accredited institution of higher education and reapply for admission to MiraCosta College.

F. Counseling

Academic advising is available to assist students with educational planning. International students should see a counselor each semester before registration and before adding/dropping classes. Advising is available to assist students with graduation requirements, transfer requirements to four-year colleges and universities, college regulations, and academic requirements.