Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

FAQ: How Do I apply to De Anza College as an International F-1 visa student?

International Students on the F-1 Visa cannot apply online at this time. They must download and complete the application for admission form at: http://www.deanza.edu/international/admission.html

FAQ: What are the admission requirements?

1. Complete, sign and return the application form with a copy of your passport.
2. Submit proof of any one of these tests with minimum score:
   - TOEFL – 500 paper or 61 iBT
   - IELTS – 6.0;
   - iTEP Academic – Level 4;
   - Pearson PTE Academic – 45
3. Submit original bank letter dated within the last 6 months with an official signature on bank letterhead that verifies the current balance in USD of your account or your sponsor’s/ guardian’s account.
4. Submit original or certified English translations of your secondary and post-secondary transcripts
5. 1 Passport size photo
6. $75.00 non-refundable application fee
7. non-refundable 60.00 USD for express mailing/courier fee for sending your acceptance documents outside the U.S.

FAQ: What are the admission deadlines?

De Anza College is on a quarter system. We admit students for fall, winter, and spring quarters. No summer admission unless you qualify for the Summer Intensive ESL Course. Application deadlines are as follow:

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**NOTE:** APPLY EARLY!

Do not wait until the deadline, especially if you are applying from overseas.
Can I get my original documents back after I submit them?

No. All documents submitted to De Anza College as part of the application become property of the college. This is a common practice among schools in the U.S. Students should always request more than one set of their transcripts or other important documents for other future needs.

What is an official transcript?

Official transcripts are the original or certified records of all marks received in high school or college. Please note that the Form I-20 will not be issued until we receive official copies of your high school or college transcripts, either original or certified. A certified English translation must be submitted if your original transcript is not in English. Internet print-outs are not accepted.

What financial support documents are required for admission?

You and your sponsor must sign a Confidential Financial Statement on page 3 of the International Student Application form. In addition, you must include an original bank letter dated within the last 6 months verifying that you or your sponsor are in "good standing" at the bank and can demonstrate that the minimum amount as listed on the application is available in funds for the first year of your studies at De Anza.

How much does it cost to attend De Anza College as an F-1 visa student?

International students on the F-1 visa pay $180.00 per unit. Students are required to enroll in a minimum of 12 units (full time) each quarter. A complete breakdown of all expenses can be found on the [http://www.deanza.edu/registration/cashier/studentfees.html](http://www.deanza.edu/registration/cashier/studentfees.html)

TUITION & FEES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

Can I be my own sponsor?

Yes. Just provide your own bank statement and be sure to sign the Confidential Financial Statement on page 3 of the International Student Application form.

Are online printouts of bank statements accepted for admission?

No. A copy of your account statement printed from your bank's website is not acceptable. Please submit an official bank letter.
When are the tuition and health insurance fees due?

International students on the F-1 visa are given until the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Friday of every quarter to pay for their fees. However, we strongly recommend students pay as soon as they register for classes. Students registering for Summer Classes must pay immediately.

How can I submit my application and supporting documents?

- Completed Application
- Bank Letter
- School transcripts
- English Proficiency Test Scores (TOEFL, IELTS, iTEP, Pearson)

MUST be submitted as original, official paper documents (certified English translation if needed)

WE DO NOT ACCEPT THE ABOVE DOCUMENTS AS SCANS, FAXES OR COPIES

Mail to:
De Anza College
ATTN: International Student Programs (ISP)
LCW - 102
21250 Stevens Creek Blvd
Cupertino, CA 95014
USA

Submit in person to the:
International Student Programs (ISP) office
Building: Learning Center West (LCW, Room – 102)

How can I pay for the Admission Application fee?

- **By credit card:** fill out the form at: [http://www.deanza.edu/international/ispforms.html](http://www.deanza.edu/international/ispforms.html) and return to our office in person, via fax (408) 864-5638

- **By check or money order (US bank drawn):** made payable to: “De Anza College”

- **Cash:** only in person at the ISP office. (Please bring exact change)

I did not finish my secondary school in my country. Can I still apply?

Yes, if you are 18 years or older. You still need to submit transcripts of all the schools you have attended. The final admission decision will be made by our admission coordinator.
I’m not 18 years old yet, can I apply to your college?

Students must be at least 16 years old and have graduated from secondary/high school by the start of orientation to be eligible for admission to De Anza College.

You MUST complete the Parent or Guardian Authorization for minor students form at: http://www.deanza.edu/international/ispforms.html if you are not 18 years of age at the time you are applying to De Anza College.

I will graduate from my secondary school in June and I’m not sure if my diploma will be ready for your June 30th deadline. Can I still apply for the fall quarter?

Yes. But we must receive your final transcripts/diploma before we can issue you an I-20 for admission.

I don’t have a TOEFL score or any of the other tests you require for admission. Can I still apply?

You can apply. But we will not consider your application for admission until you submit any of the tests that we require.

I have a TOEFL score but is not high enough for your admission. Can I still apply?

If your iBT TOEFL score is between 52 & 60 or you have an IELTS score of 5.0, you can apply for the Intensive Summer ESL Course for International Students.

If your score is really low, you can either keep re-taking the TOEFL until you meet our required score or apply to one of the language schools we have an agreement with and transfer to De Anza after you have met the requirement: click on the Language Schools list from the following web page: http://www.deanza.edu/international/admission.html

Do I need to take the SAT or ACT?

No. These tests are not needed for admission to De Anza College.

I have a Bachelor or higher degree from the USA. Do I still need to submit the TOEFL test?

No. If you have a BA or higher degree from the USA, be sure to include a copy of your transcripts.

I have a Bachelor or higher degree from my country. Do I still need to submit the TOEFL test?

YES.
I’m currently attending another school in the USA and I want to transfer to De Anza. What should I do?

Complete the international application for admission. Attach all supporting documents AND

1. download the Transfer Release Form from: http://www.deanza.edu/international ispforms.html
2. complete the top part
3. give the Transfer Clearance Form to your current school for completion
4. be sure you or your current school return the Transfer Clearance Form to our office

If I transfer from another US school to De Anza, will I get a new I-20?

Yes. If you plan to transfer from your current college, university or language school to study at De Anza as a full-time student, De Anza will issue you a new I-20.

I currently attend a Language School and got a conditional acceptance letter from De Anza. Does that mean I’m accepted?

No. The conditional acceptance letter is just to let you know that upon your completion of the English Language Proficiency level at the Language school, we will review your application and make an admission decision only after all documents have been submitted to our office such as:

1. Admission application
2. Supporting documents as described on the application
3. Transfer Form
4. Language School English proficiency level proof/certificate

What happens after I submit my application?

Soon after you submit the application, we will send you a “Missing Document” message, letting you know what documents we are still missing from your application.

I submitted my application but I have not heard anything. What should I do?

If 2 or more weeks have gone by and you have not heard from us, please send us an email at: dainternational@fhda.edu and include your full name, date of birth and country you are from in your email and the approximate date you applied.
I have attended a college/university outside of the United States. Can my foreign classes count towards my classes or degree at De Anza? Can I get credit for these classes?

De Anza does not evaluate foreign transcripts or credentials. Foreign transcripts need to be translated/evaluated by an outside certified agency first, then De Anza College will do its 2nd evaluation. This is a process that is done only after a student has been admitted to De Anza College. Students are encouraged to discuss the evaluation process with a counselor at orientation time or during their first quarter at De Anza College.

I have taken college/universities classes in the US. Can I get my transcripts evaluated before I get admission from De Anza?

No. Once you become a student at De Anza College, you will have a chance to meet with counselors during your first quarter who will help you forward your transcripts to our Admission & Records office for an evaluation.

Do you have scholarships for international F-1 visa students?

F-1 visa students are eligible to apply for scholarships once they enroll in classes at De Anza College, but not before becoming a student. Scholarships information is found at: http://www.deanza.edu/financialaid/scholarship.html

Is Financial Aid available for international F-1 visa students?

F-1 visa students cannot apply for financial aid; however, they are eligible to apply for scholarships once they enroll in classes at De Anza College, but not before becoming a student.

I have already taken Math & English classes in another US school. Do I still need to take the placement tests at De Anza?

If you are transferring from U.S. community college or university with transferable credits in college level English and or Mathematics coursework, please read and follow thoroughly the directions at: http://www.deanza.edu/admissions/placement/prereqclear.html to gain pre-requisite clearance so that you can continue with your studies and not be blocked from courses. You must submit all documentation as described in the above website a few weeks before you can register.
Can I take Part Time Classes only?

No. International students on the F-1 visa must enroll and complete a minimum of 12 units every quarter (except summer), in order to comply with immigration regulations.

**NOTE:** If you have an I-20 from another school and you would like to take part time classes at De Anza, please follow the instructions for the Concurrent Enrollment Petition at: [http://www.deanza.edu/international/lispforms.html](http://www.deanza.edu/international/lispforms.html)

I would like to take ESL classes only. Can I?

No. De Anza does not have a language program. You will take English/ESL classes as part of your degree in our college, but that is in addition to other classes. If you are interested in taking ESL classes only, you can explore any of the Language Schools we have an agreement with at: [http://www.deanza.edu/international/admission.html](http://www.deanza.edu/international/admission.html) and click on ESL Language Schools.

Do you have a summer program?

No, but we do accept students in a Summer Intensive ESL course who meet the following criteria:

If your TOEFL score is between 475 and 499 (CBT: between 151 & 172, iBT between 52 & 60, IELTS 5.0) and you would like to apply to De Anza for the Fall quarter, you can attend our Summer Intensive ESL Course, an eight-week intensive language study program which guarantees you admission to De Anza in the following Fall quarter upon successful completion of the course. More information at: [http://www.deanza.edu/international/summerESL.html](http://www.deanza.edu/international/summerESL.html)

How many international students are at De Anza College?

There are currently 2,000 international students on the F-1 visa at De Anza College.

I would like to visit your campus, can I schedule for a campus tour?

Yes. Please send an email to our office with your request to discuss admission and set up a tour of the campus at: dainternational@fhda.edu
What are your office hours?

Regular office hours are:

- Monday: 9am - 5pm
- Tuesday: 9am - 6pm
- Wednesday: 9am - 3pm
- Thursday: 9am - 6pm
- Friday: 9am - 1pm

Closed Saturdays & Sundays

Summer hours are M-Th: 9am – 5pm

Please check the college calendar for holidays and special campus closures at: http://www.deanza.edu/calendar/

What majors does De Anza offer?

Please log onto our catalog page to view majors and programs we offer: http://www.deanza.edu/publications/catalog/

Where is De Anza located and how do I get to your campus?

Location: http://www.deanza.edu/international/location.html
Campus Map & Directions: http://www.deanza.edu/map/
Transportation & Parking: http://www.deanza.edu/parking/

Can I speak to a representative from your college in my home country?

We have some representatives who attend college fairs in some countries. For a complete list of visits: http://foothill.edu/international/intertrav.php

Do I have to pay for health insurance?

Yes. All F-1 international students enrolled at De Anza colleges are required to purchase and subscribe to the health insurance selected by the Foothill-De Anza district.

I have my own health insurance. Do I still need to pay for the Foothill-De Anza district?

Yes. It is mandatory that all F-1 visa international students purchase the health insurance selected by the Foothill-De Anza district.
Can I waive the health insurance fee?

Only if you meet the requirements as described in the Health Insurance Waiver form which you can find at: http://www.deanza.edu/international/ispforms.html

Do I have to attend the New Students’ Orientation Program?

Yes. Our orientation programs are very comprehensive where we cover information on:

- Placement tests
- Class registration
- Housing
- Health Insurance
- On Campus/off campus safety
- Social Security/ID cards
- Employment

It is in the student’s best interest to attend the new students orientation program as it is a chance to get most of your questions answered before you begin your first quarter at De Anza and be successful.

Why is the orientation held about a month before classes start?

Course registration usually begins a month before classes start. Orientation is held at this time to make sure students take the math and English placement tests and receive test scores on time for registration. Students will also enroll in a half unit Counseling 200 (introduction to college) class during orientation to discuss major, select courses and learn about the US educational system. If you miss orientation and arrive late, we cannot guarantee that you will have an opportunity to meet with an academic counselor to discuss your academic plans and first quarter registration. Besides, many of the classes you want may already be full. It is very likely that you will have trouble finding open classes to satisfy the 12-unit minimum enrollment requirement to maintain your valid F-1 status.

I’m a transfer student from another US school, do I still need to attend orientation?

Yes. Each school in the US has its own policies, if you want to start your first quarter at De Anza successfully; it is in your best interest to attend our new student’s orientation program.

Can my parents attend the orientation?

Yes. Parents are welcome to attend the orientation, subject to seating availability.
- **Can my spouse/child(ren) come with me to the USA?**
  
  Yes. If your family plans to reside with you to the US as F-2 visa, you must complete the Dependent Information Form, copy of their passport and submit it with your application. You can find the form at:  [http://www.deanza.edu/international/ispforms.html](http://www.deanza.edu/international/ispforms.html)

- **Are international students allowed to work?**
  
  International students on F-1 visas may work on campus up to a maximum of 19 hours per week. There is not a centralized location on the De Anza campus to advertise jobs. Students need to visit the various offices/departments and inquire if hiring is available. The Bookstore, Cafeteria and Tutorial center are among the offices that hire student assistants.

- **Does De Anza College have a dormitory?**
  
  No. Like most community colleges, De Anza does not have a dormitory on campus and does not directly arrange housing for students.

- **Do you have a Homestay Program?**
  
  Our office works with a local Homestay program called International Student Placement (ISP). Please view the information on their website at: [http://isphomestays.com/](http://isphomestays.com/)
  
  Or contact the director of the program Ms. Jean Ikeda as follow:
  
  Phone: 650.947.8879
  
  Fax: 650.948.1105
  
  Email: jikeda@isphomestays.com

  
  You can live with a family or share a house with other students. Read and complete their application if interested from their website.

  
  Please NOTE: ISP (International Student Placement) Homestay is not the same as De Anza ISP (International Student Programs) office. Be sure to contact the ISP homestay if you have any questions regarding living with a host family.

- **I don’t want to live with a host family. How can I find a place to stay?**
  
  - If you would like to find housing/apartments on your own, just type "apartment rentals near De Anza College" on your search engine. Remember you must be at least 18 years old to rent an apartment.

  - Students also find the [De Anza ISP Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/DeAnzaISP) page useful to connect with other international students in order to find housing accommodations by posting advertisements here. Look us up on Facebook under [De Anza ISP](https://www.facebook.com/DeAnzaISP) and request to become a friend!
I would like to rent an apartment. Is the rental process easy? How much does it cost?

Apartments in our area are expensive. A 1-bedroom could easily be priced in the $1800 – 2,200 range per month. You must be 18 years old or older to rent an apartment.

Can I rent an apartment from overseas?

You should not! It’s important for students to see the place first. Do not sign any contract/lease before understanding all of the rules/policy of renting an apartment or room.

I have a tourist “B” visa. May I go to school at your college on this visa?

No. B visa holders are prohibited from attending community college classes.

I have an H, J or another type of visa and want to change to F-1. What should I do?

You must come to the ISP Office and speak to the admission coordinator. There are so many variations to a particular immigration status that is extremely important for the prospective student to meet with the ISP staff for advice. Call our office at: 408.864.8826 or come in person.

I am a U.S. permanent resident, citizen or hold a visa other than F-1. Do I have to attend the international student orientation program?

No. Information given at Orientation pertains mostly to F-1 visa holders. Go to our website at: http://www.deanza.edu/international/citizen.html for more information on Overseas US Citizen & Immigrant Student Assistance Program.

I do not hold an F-1 visa. Can I still purchase the International Student Insurance Plan?

No, this plan is available only to international students on F-1 visas. You can check with De Anza’s Health Office for information on health insurance.

Am I considered a California resident if I have lived in California for a year or more?

No. International students on the F-1 visa are never considered resident, no matter how long they live in the state.

NOTE: If your status has changed to a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, please go to the Admissions & Records office in the Student & Community Services Building.
I am a citizen of the US but have lived abroad most of my life. Am I considered an international student?

No. If you were born in the USA or are a resident (holding a green card) of the USA, you are not an international student. Please follow the admission procedures for domestic students at: http://www.deanza.edu/registration/current.html

For additional information please go to: http://www.deanza.edu/international/citizen.html