



10 Points to Remember When Applying for an F-1 Student Visa

This information is provided to help you prepare for your visa appointment/interview. Please read all 10 tips! Be sure to have all of your supporting documents with you. Also, try to answer the questions clearly and confidently.

1. Ties To Your Home Country

To qualify for an F-1 student visa, you must demonstrate very clearly that your reason to be in the United States is to study and that you will return to your home country after you complete your studies. To prove that you don't plan to permanently stay in the U.S. to a consular officer, **show evidence of strong financial, employment, and family reasons for returning to your home country.**

2. English

Your visa interview will probably be in English. You should be ready to tell the officer about your plans for study in the U.S., your goals, and your ties to your home country. **So prepare to clearly explain what you plan to study, and why you are studying at a community college. If you have plans to transfer to a university, explain which university you plan to transfer to after completing your studies at Sinclair, and what kind of job you are planning to get in your country following your studies.** If you are coming to the U.S. to study the English language, be prepared to explain how learning English will be useful to you in your home country.

3. Speak for Yourself

Do not take family members with you to your interview. **The consular officer wants to speak directly to you.**

4. Know the Program and How It Fits Into Your Career Plans

Know the reasons why you want to study in a particular program in the U.S. and how it fits into your plans for the future, particularly opportunities to work in that field in your home country. **It is important to demonstrate that your intent is to study in the U.S. and NOT to work or stay indefinitely.**

5. Be Brief

Consular officers often must conduct interviews quickly due to the large number of applications they receive. This means **you should try to provide answers that are as clear and concise as possible.**

6. Supporting Documentation

Your documents should be easy to read and well-organized. Consular officers do not have much time to review your documents. When they look at a document, it should be very clear as to what type of document it is. The documentation you need for your visa interview can vary depending on your situation, so please look at the consulate's website for information.

7. Different Requirements for Different Countries

Applicants from countries with economic problems or from countries where students have remained in the U.S. as immigrants tend to have more difficulty obtaining visas. If your country has these characteristics, you are more likely to be asked about your job opportunities in your home country after you finish your studies in the U.S.

8. Employment

The intent of the F-1 visa is to study, not to work before or after graduation. Some international students do work on or off-campus during their studies, but this employment is secondary to the main purpose of an F-1 visa, which is to complete one's academic goals in the U.S. **You must be able to clearly explain your intent to return to your home country at the end of your program.** Note that if you are traveling to the U.S. with F-2 dependents (spouse and/or children), they are not allowed to work in the U.S., so be prepared to address what your dependents will do with their time in the U.S.

9. Dependents Remaining at Home

If your spouse or children are remaining in your home country while you travel to the U.S., be prepared to talk about how they will support themselves while you are away. If your dependents decide to join you at a later time, it is helpful for them to apply at the same post where you applied for your visa.

10. Maintain a Positive Attitude

Do not argue with the consular officer regarding his or her decision. If you are denied an F-1 student visa, ask the officer for a list of documents he or she would suggest that you bring in order to reverse the decision. You can also try to get the reason for denial in writing.

Source: NAFSA: Association of International Educators -

https://www.nafsa.org/Professional_Resources/Browse_by_Interest/International_Students_and_Scholars/Network_Resources/International_Student_and_Scholar_Services/10_Points_to_Remember_When_Applying_for_a_Student_Visa/

We hope you have a successful visa interview! Please contact the Sinclair College's International Office after your interview to let us know if you received your F-1 visa.