



International Student Admissions Policy

Thank you for your interest in Gaston College as an F-1 student. Gaston College has an open-door admission policy. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age or possess a high school diploma or equivalent to enroll. General Admissions Requirements are as follows:

1. Complete and submit an application
2. Complete online New Student Orientation
3. Submit official high school transcript*

*If transcripts are in another language, an official English translation is required. The translation must be by a certified translator. Students whose foreign transcripts cannot be evaluated by college personnel are responsible for providing a transcript evaluation from a recognized American transcript evaluation agency.

Admittance:

International students must meet all admission requirements listed under General Admission Requirements. In addition, international students must complete and submit additional documentation prior to enrolling at Gaston College.

Evidence of English Competency:

Proof of English proficiency is required. Before entering a full-time academic (college) program, a student is required to have a minimum Testing of English as a Foreign Language Internet Base Test (TOEFL IBT) score of Reading: 17; Listening: 17; Speaking: 16 and Writing: 16. International English Language Testing System (IELTS) scores of Reading: 6.5; Listening 6.5; Speaking: 6.5 and Writing: 6.5.

Funding:

Gaston College does not offer scholarships or other types of financial aid for international students. An F-1 student may accept off-campus employment only if the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Service has granted prior approval. An affidavit of financial support signed by the person responsible for support accompanied by supporting documents (bank statement or letter from sponsor's bank indicating sufficient funds) must be presented.

Housing and Transportation:

Gaston College is a commuter institution and does not have dormitories or housing for rent. Students must find their own housing in the neighboring towns. Transportation to the college must be arranged by the student.



Gaston College is approved to issue I-20 forms for international students who are interested in studying in our associate degree programs, including university transfer Associate in Science or Associate in Arts degrees. These programs prepare students to enter most four-year colleges and universities at the junior level to complete a bachelor's degree.

Admission Requirements:

Application Deadlines:

| <u>Applicant</u> | <u>Fall Semester</u> | <u>Spring Semester</u> |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Applying Outside U.S. | April 30 th | September 30 th |
| Transfers | June 15 th | October 15 th |

Applying for admissions outside of the United States:

If you reside outside of the United States and want to attend Gaston College as a full-time student, you will need an I-20 to apply for an F-1 student visa. All admissions requirements must be submitted by the posted deadline above.

The admissions process includes:

- Completed application: www.cfnc.org/gastonapp
- Completed International Student Application
- Submit official high school transcript showing graduation date and credits earned (If transcript is not in English, it must be translated and evaluated by an approved outside agency.)
- Evidence of English competency - TOEFL (iBT only) or IELTS, if applicable.
 - TOEFL Web Address: www.ets.org/toefl/
 - IELTS Web Address: www.ielts.org
- Affidavit of Financial Support
- Placement Testing*

**This test will be scheduled upon your arrival.*

For information on bringing dependents to the U.S., returning to continue studies, renewing your visa, or details on how to apply for a student visa, refer to the U.S. Department of State website, at: http://travel.state.gov/visa/visa_1750.html



Once your admissions process to Gaston College is complete, we will issue your I-20. The admissions process includes:

- Completed application: www.cfnc.org/gastonapp
- Placement Test Scores*
- New Student Orientation
- Submit official high school transcript showing graduation date and credits earned (If transcript is not in English, it must be translated and evaluated by an approved outside agency.)
- Evidence of English competency [TOEFL (iBT only) or IELTS]

*This test will be scheduled when you arrive.

For students who will be entering the United States for the first time to study, the following information will be helpful.

For information on bringing dependents to the U.S., returning to continue studies, renewing your visa, or details on how to apply for a student visa, refer to the U.S. Department of State website, at: http://travel.state.gov/visa/visa_1750.html

- 1. Contact your local U.S. Consulate or Embassy**
- 2. Schedule an interview for your F-1 student visa**
- 3. Complete required forms**
- 4. Pay the visa application fee**
- 5. Pay the SEVIS fee**
- 6. What to bring to your visa interview**

1. Contact your local U.S. Consulate or Embassy to ask about how to get an F-1 international student visa. A list of Consulates and Embassies can be found at: <http://usembassy.state.gov/>.

2. After you receive an I-20 form from Gaston College, follow the U.S. Embassy/Consulate's instructions to schedule an interview for your F-1 student visa. It is important to apply for your student visa as far in advance as possible. Many consulates recommend that appointments be made no more than 90 days from the intended date of travel, but some can make earlier arrangements for interviews.

3. Complete the following forms*:

- DS-160 Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application

(or)

- DS-156 Nonimmigrant Visa Application Form
- DS-158 Contact Information and Walk History for Nonimmigrant Visa Applicant
- If a male between the ages of 16 and 45, DS-157 Supplemental Nonimmigrant Visa Application

Check the requirements of the U.S. Embassy or Consulate in your country as some require only the DS-160 and others require the DS-156, 157 and 158. [Visa Forms](#)



4. Pay the visa application fee by following instructions on your local U.S. embassy or consulate's website.

5. Pay the SEVIS fee.

To Pay Online

- Find the Form I-901 at www.fmjfee.com.
- Complete the form online and supply the necessary Visa, MasterCard or American Express information. *Be sure to write your name exactly how it appears on your I-20 form.
- Print a copy of the online receipt.
- Be sure to make copies of your receipt and keep it with your other important immigration documents.

You must bring the receipt of fee payment with you to the interview. If you have lost the receipt, the Visa Officer may be able to view your payment history in his or her database.

If you are transferring schools, extending your program, applying for an F-2 dependent visa, or have paid this fee and been denied a visa within the last twelve months, you do not need to pay the SEVIS fee.

6. Prepare and bring to your visa interview the following:

- A passport valid for at least six months
- Form I-20 (sign the form under Item 11)
- School admission letter
- Completed visa applications (DS-160 or DS-156, DS-158, and, if applicable, DS-157)
- Two 2"x2" photographs in the prescribed format http://travel.state.gov/visa/visa_1750.html.
- A receipt for the visa application fee
- A receipt for the SEVIS fee. If you have not received an official receipt in the mail showing payment and you paid the fee electronically, the consulate will accept the temporary receipt you printed from your computer. If you do not have a receipt, the consulate may be able to see your payment electronically if your fee payment was processed at least 3 business days before your interview. www.fmjfee.com
- Financial evidence that shows you have sufficient funds to cover your tuition and living expenses during the period you intend to study. (The total amount from #7 on I-20)
- Any information that proves that you will return to your home country after finishing your studies in the U.S. This may include proof of property, family, or other ties to your community.

You may be refused entry into the United States if you attempt to arrive more than 30 days before the program start date listed on #5 of your SEVIS I-20 form.



Admissions Checklist for International Student

All parts of the application must be completed and supporting documents must be included with your submission.

Submission Requirements All Applicants:

- Completed International Student Personal Data Form with photo from passport attached
- Completed International Student Agreement Form
- Completed Affidavit of Support
- Evidence of financial support; bank statements or a letter from the sponsor's bank indicating sufficient funds
Tuition, fees, books, and living expenses for one academic year will cost at least \$17,500* (Tuition and fees \$7,000; books and living expenses \$10,000 and medical insurance \$500). Please add an additional \$5,000 for each dependent. We must have a statement from your sponsor's bank that shows the above amount on deposit in U.S. dollars. The statement cannot be more than three months from the date you submit your application. Copies are allowed for the application process. The original will be needed for your visa interview and upon your arrival at Gaston College. ****Tuition and fees are subject to change without notice. Summer semester not included.***
- Evidence of English competency for students entering into college level programs
 - Internet-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (iBT TOEFL) published and administered in most countries by the Educational Testing Service, www.ets.org/toefl. Before entering a full-time academic (college) program, a student is required to have a minimum Internet Based Test (IBT) score as follows:
Reading: 17; Listening: 17; Speaking: 16 and Writing: 16
 - International English Language Testing System (IELTS), www.ielts.org, is another internet-based testing system that is acceptable. The required minimum score are as follows:
Reading: 6.5; Listening: 6.5; Speaking: 6.5 and Writing: 6.5

Students without English competency must take and complete the Academic English as a Second Language Program (EFL) to enter a college-level program.

- Official high school transcripts showing graduation date and credits earned. If transcripts are not in English, the transcripts must be translated into English by a certified translator approved by the U.S. Embassy. (Not required for students over 18 who will only study English as a Foreign Language, EFL)
- Copy of the personal information page from your passport

Transfer Applicants:

Students who are currently in the country on a visa and have attended high school or college in the United States within the past five months must provide these additional documents.

- Official college or high school transcripts
- Completed Transfer Recommendation Form
- Copy of current I-20 from current college/university

Submit your completed application and supporting documents to:

**Gaston College, Admissions Office
201 Highway 321 South
Dallas, North Carolina 28034**

or

**Email to: admissions@gaston.edu
(MUST BE SCANNED COPIES NOT PICTURES)**



International Student Application

****Please include a copy of the data page of your passport with photo.***

When filling out the form below, please print using CAPITAL LETTERS.

1. _____
Family Name (same as passport) First Name Middle Name

2. Country of Birth _____ City of Birth _____

3. Country of Citizenship (Passport) _____

4. Date of Birth: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____

5. Sex (circle one): Male Female Native Language: _____

6. Source of Funding:

Name of person or organization signing your Affidavit of Support to attend Gaston College:

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

A. Spouse or Dependent Information: *If accompanied by Spouse or Dependent:*

(Name) _____

(Date of Birth) _____ (Age) _____ (Place of Birth) _____
Month/Day/Year

(Sex) Male Female

(Citizenship) _____ (Relationship to you) _____

(Name) _____

(Date of Birth) _____ (Age) _____ (Place of Birth) _____
Month/Day/Year

(Sex) Male Female

(Citizenship) _____ (Relationship to you) _____

7. In case of emergency, notify:

Name: _____ Phone: _____



International Student Application

8. Your foreign mailing address (REQUIRED):

9. Your local (North Carolina) address:

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

10. If you currently have a visa, what kind of visa do you have? _____

11. If applicable, when does your stay in the U.S. expire? _____ (date on your 1-94 stamp)

12. Are you applying for a change of status? (Circle one) Yes No

13. If you have attended other schools in the USA prior to coming to Gaston College please list:

14. Date of high school graduation _____ Years attended, from _____ to _____

15. Do you meet the TOEFL or IELTS score requirements? _____ If yes, please provide an official copy of your scores.

IBT TOEFL

Reading: 17

Listening: 17

Speaking: 16

Writing: 16

IELTS

Reading: 6.5

Listening: 6.5

Speaking: 6.5

Writing: 6.5



International Student Application

16. Tentative Starting Date: (Circle One)

Spring
January – May

Fall
August – December

17. Your intended program of study (major) at Gaston College: _____

18. Degree or program you wish to finish at Gaston College: (circle one)

A. Associate, Applied Science

B. Associate, College Transfer

C. Diploma

19. Do you have any close relatives attending Gaston College? _____ If so, give name(s):

20. Please indicate how you first heard about Gaston College:

___ Family Member ___ Gaston College Alumni ___ Website ___ Advertisement ___ Other _____

21. Why did you choose Gaston College?

I certify that the above information is true and accurate.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Do you want your I-20:

Pick up: Telephone Number: _____ (We will contact you when the I-20 is ready.)

E-Mail to: _____



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AGREEMENT FORM

Family Name

First Name

Middle Name

Passport from (Country): _____

I UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING:

1. Upon receipt of my I-20 (Student Eligibility Certificate), I will have someone fluent in English read and translate the information on page 2 before I sign and take to the United States Embassy or Consular Section.
2. I understand that during my stay in the United States as an F-1 visa student at Gaston College, I will not be permitted to work off campus for salary or wages unless I have official permission from the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services.
3. As an F-1 visa student, I understand that I must maintain a full time (minimum 12 credit hours) course schedule and only one course can be an online course (3 credit hours).
4. I understand that I must make academic progress and will be held to the Standards of Academic Progress at Gaston College. Failure to do so may result in academic warning, probation or suspension.
5. In the event of an illness, accident or other emergency that will affect class attendance, I will notify the DSO (Designated School Office) in the Admissions Office immediately.
6. I understand that I must keep my passport valid for at least six (6) months into the future.
7. For travel outside the United States, I will notify the DSO in the Admissions Office in advance. I understand that by not doing so, immigration officials may not allow me to re-enter the United States without proper signatures/release information recorded on my I-20.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____



GASTON
COLLEGE

**International Student Application
Affidavit of Financial Support**

International students must provide proof of financial support in the amount of \$17,500* (Tuition and fees \$7,000, living expenses and books \$10,000 and medical insurance \$500) for one academic year. Please add an additional \$5,000 for each dependent.

**Tuition and fees are subject to change without notice. Expenses are estimates only. Summer Semester not included.*

In addition to this Affidavit of Financial Support, we must have a recent statement from the sponsor's bank that shows the above amount on deposit in U.S. dollars. This must be an ORIGINAL DOCUMENT. No copies will be accepted.

To International Student Admissions:

This is to certify that I _____ (name), will sponsor
_____ (student's name), and will maintain
the above-named student, providing for tuition and living expenses while the student studies at Gaston College.

My relationship to the student is _____ (Please be specific.
Example: father, mother, uncle, friend).

Sponsor's Signature _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Fax or email address, if available _____

This document must be notarized: