



WWW.BCOM.ORG
BETHANY COLLEGE OF MISSIONS

SPECIAL INFORMATION FOR CANADIAN APPLICANTS

During the Application Process:

- Canadians **DO NOT** need to take the ACT or SAT college entrance exams.

After Acceptance:

- Once accepted, Canadian applicants need to submit proof of financial support. This is a U.S. government requirement. Along with submitting the required paperwork to the college you will need to have copies of this paperwork with you in order to cross the border when coming to attend Bethany (see instructions below). A copy of the proof of support documentation should be kept for this purpose.
- If you are eligible for any financial assistance from Bethany, the total amount of these awards can be deducted from the total amount of proof of support you are required to produce.
- The Supporter Packet (sent with your acceptance packet) contains all information and forms needed to submit and maintain proof of support documentation.
- Upon acceptance, Canadian students are immediately entered into the U.S. government computer tracking system, called SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information Service). The SEVIS system generates an I-20 form, needed for the student visa. We send your I-20 form to you after we have received your proof of support documentation. The form needs to be signed by you and kept with your passport. **DO NOT ALTER THE FORM IN ANY OTHER WAY** (laminating, writing on it, etc)
- The I-20 form will serve as a record of your visa and status as a student. The visa stamp is placed on the I-20 form at the U.S. Point of Entry (POE). **No visit to the consulate is necessary for Canadian students to study in the States.**
- **Very important – Canadian students must pay an I-901 SEVIS fee directly to the U.S. government prior to arrival at the POE.** You must show a receipt that the fee has been paid when crossing the border. Please allow enough time to get your receipt in the mail if you pay the fee by mail. You can get a receipt immediately if you pay online. Details for payment of the SEVIS fee will be included with your I-20 form.

Upon Entry into the States:

- When arriving at the POE to the States, Canadian students need to have the following items with them:
 1. copies of their proof of support documents
 2. their I-20 form
 3. their SEVIS I-901 fee receipt
 4. their acceptance letter from the college
 5. a passport or other photo i.d.
- Not all POEs are open 24 hours per day for processing students, so students should be aware of the hours at the crossing they intend to go through and plan accordingly.
- Upon going through the border crossing students will receive an admissions number, the I-94 arrival/departure card, and their I-20 form will be stamped with an F-1 (student) visa. **The I-94 form is very important** even though it is just an unassuming little “card”. It records your entrance into the country and you will get one each time you leave and then come back into the US. Make sure that before you leave the POE, the I-94 is thoroughly filled in by the border officer and that it is stapled into your passport.

During/After Enrollment:

- It is recommended that the student take copies of his/her signed and stamped I-20 form, passport, SEVIS fee receipt and I-94 card in case any of these items are lost or stolen. We strongly recommend that you send a set of copies to your emergency contact person as well.
- Canadians must meet U.S. government proof of support requirements. The figures in proof of support documents must match the figures given in BCOM’s financial information for U.S. students.
- Canadians are required to attend any orientation sessions for international students in order to receive information on the handling of USCIS documents and other issues pertinent to their enrollment in a U.S. college.
- The signed I-20 form, I-94 card, and passport must accompany the student whenever crossing any U.S. border.
- When a student travels outside of the U.S. they must have a current Designated School Official signature on page 3 of the I-20 form. This must be renewed each year. Without a DSO signature, the student may not be permitted to re-enter the country, so this is extremely important at breaks and vacation times.
- It should be noted that Proof of Support documentation must be renewed each year as well, by submitting new Proof of Support documents with current dates to the Registrar’s Office.
- The Canadian student will not be able to work for pay while enrolled. There is no paid work available on campus, and international students are restricted from working off campus without a work permit. Work permits cannot be obtained until the student has been enrolled for 9 months and then take 2 – 3 months to process. Therefore, you should plan your budget so it is not dependent on working for pay while enrolled.