International Students FAQ

Questions about Coastline

Can you tell me more about Coastline?

Coastline Community College, located in Fountain Valley, is known as a college without walls. We do not have a traditional campus. Instead, instruction is offered at sites throughout the Coast Community College District. As one of the nation’s most innovative institutions, Coastline offers students a small-college feel with big-college benefits. You will find that Coastline is the most accessible, flexible, and affordable path for fulfilling your educational goals.

Where are you located?

International Student Program is located within the Admissions and Records Office at Coastline’s College Center located at 11460 Warner Avenue, Fountain Valley, CA 92708.

What are your office hours?

- **Monday - Thursday:** 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
- **Friday:** 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
- **Saturday - Sunday:** CLOSED

Phone Hours
- **Monday - Thursday:** 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
- **Friday:** 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

International Admissions and Related Processing Questions:

What are the requirements to get an I-20?

1. **Application and Fee.** Complete and sign the International Student Application Form and return it with a $30.00 application fee in U.S. currency, check, money order, or credit card. (This fee is non-refundable).
2. Include 2 passport-size photographs with the application.
3. Have your financial institution complete the Bank Certification Form.
4. Have your sponsor complete the International Student Financial Support affidavit. Your sponsor can be yourself, a parent, a friend, or other relative. This form serves as evidence that you have sufficient financial resources to meet all expenses during your period of attendance at Coastline.
5. **English proficiency.** International students must have sufficient knowledge of English to enable them to benefit from instruction at the college level. Therefore, all applicants from a non-English speaking country who are applying for the regular program must take the TOEFL test and score a minimum of 450 on the paper-based test, 133 on the computer-based test, or 45 on TOEFL iBT. A copy of your most recent score should be forwarded to Coastline (Institution Code #004086). *Students who are enrolling only in the English as a Second Language Program are not required to take the TOEFL test.*
6. Transcripts. Complete, official transcripts of college or high school grades should be submitted with your application packet. Transcripts must be officially translated into English. It is not necessary to include a high school graduation certification. Coastline does not accept faxes or photocopies of these documents. Sealed transcripts can be mailed by the student or sent by the institution.
7. **Complete your Notice of Intent to Transfer.** If you are transferring from another college or high school you must also complete a Notice of Intent to Transfer form, copies of your I-94, a copy of your visa page in your passport, and a copy of your I-20 A-B form. A student who transfers must be in good standing and in status at his/her current school with a 2.0 grade point average or better.
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What is the application deadline?

Spring Semester: December 1
Fall Semester: July 1
Summer: No new students are accepted for summer

Can I apply online?

No. International student application materials must be submitted by mail or in person. Original documents are required.

Can I take classes at other colleges while I am using the CCC I-20?

The CCC I-20 requires all courses to be taken at CCC. However, in rare cases, enrollment at another college part-time (no more than 6 units) can be authorized if a required course has been cancelled or is not offered at CCC. Students must obtain written documentation from their counselor and authorization from the ISP.

When can I see a counselor?

New international students should see a counselor before registering for classes and can obtain a counseling appointment through Coastline’s Counseling Department. Continuing international students should also schedule their appointments through Counseling at 714-241-6162. All students are encouraged to meet with a counselor once per semester. For continuing students, the best time to meet with a counselor is mid-semester.

When can I register?

New students receive one-on-one attention when registering for courses during the New International Student Orientation. Continuing international students should obtain registration appointment by checking their myCCC account. The ISP communicates regularly with the international students by sending eNews bulletins through their email to remind students about upcoming registration dates and deadlines.

How many units am I required to take?

All international students are required to be enrolled on a full-time basis. Full-time means at least 12 units during the FALL and SPRING semesters. Enrollment for the summer session is not required.

Do you have English as a Second Language (ESL) program?

Coastline does have an ESL program. If you apply to Coastline and do not have a TOEFL score then you are automatically enrolled into ESL. You will take the ESL placement test during the new student orientation.

Do I have to take ESL courses if I am accepted to CCC?

If you submit your application and do not include a TOEFL score you will have to take ESL courses. However, if you submit a TOEFL score of a minimum of 450 on the paper-based test, 133 on the computer-based test, or 45 on TOEFL iBT, you do not have to take ESL courses.
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Financial Questions:

How much does it cost each semester?

International students are required to have one year of available funds (as verified in your sponsor’s bank statement). This covers all of your estimated expenses such as tuition, fees, living expenses, books, and health insurance for the year. You only need to pay these fees as they are incurred. For example, you pay for your registration fees one semester at a time. The individual semester expenses are itemized on Coastline’s International Estimated Expenses.

Can international students apply for financial aid?

No. International students are not eligible for Federal or State aid.

Are my fees due at the time of registration?

Yes. Students should be prepared to pay all fees at the time of registration. However, CCC will allow payments within 48 hours of registration.

Do I have to pay for my fees all at once?

Yes. Your full semester fees must be paid at the time of registration.

Do I have to purchase the college-approved medical insurance?

Yes. CCC requires all international students to purchase the college-approved medical insurance policy prior to registration each semester. Private plans are not accepted.

For your health and financial security, health insurance is very important. Without insurance, health care costs are very expensive in the U.S. Therefore, the ISP provides an affordable comprehensive international student health insurance plan that meets all of the necessary coverage limits with the largest network of doctors in California. Private plans are not accepted because the limits and coverage restrictions are often not adequate and/or not accepted locally.

When do I have to pay for the health insurance and how much is it?

Students must pay for their health insurance prior to registration. The current insurance cost is listed on Coastline’s International Estimated Expenses.

What is a money order and how do I purchase one?

A money order is a secure form of payment because it is prepaid with cash. It is often used when one cannot mail cash through the mail or if an alternate form of payment is not valid. In the United States, money orders are typically sold by third parties such as banks, the United States Postal Service, grocery stores, and convenience stores. The cost to purchase a money order ranges from 35 cents to a couple of dollars. For example, to purchase a money order for $500, you would bring $500 in cash to one of the third parties listed above. The third party will prepare a kind of prepaid check for the specific amount of cash provided.
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Regulatory Questions:

How do I apply for a student visa?

The student visa (F-1) application process must be completed through the U.S. Embassy/Consulate located in your country. Contact the U.S. Consulate to verify the requirements for scheduling an interview and for processing a student visa. Usually the requirements for a student visa are the following:

- Current passport
- I-20 Form/Acceptance Letter
- Affidavit of Financial Support
- SEVIS and Visa Application Fee

Note: Other documents such as prior U.S. transcripts and I-20s may be requested.

My I-20 expired. What do I need to do?

Allowing an I-20 to expire may cause a student to be out of status. It is important to contact the ISP as soon as possible to discuss your options.

I forgot to obtain a travel signature – how do I get into the U.S.?

The travel signature on page three of the current CCC I-20 should be no older than six months. If students do not have a current signature, they may experience difficulty re-entering the U.S. It is important to contact the ISP as soon as possible to discuss your options. Students are encouraged to request travel signatures at least two weeks prior to travel whenever possible.

Can I get a Social Security card to buy a cell phone?

No. Social security cards are for employment purposes only. For international students, this would be for off-campus employment. Most cell phone companies require a deposit if you do not have a co-signer (with a social security number) to assume responsibility for your account.

Can I take online courses?

Yes. However, the number of online courses that may be taken is limited. Visa regulations require international students to enroll in and complete 12 units each semester; only three of the units can be online coursework. Nine units must be traditional, in-class coursework every semester.

Do I have to enroll during the summer and intersession?

No. Summer and winter intercessions are optional for continuing international students.
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General Questions for Current Students:

How do I purchase a parking permit? From www.coastline.edu homepage, under “Admissions” tab, please click “Cost & Fees.” Then click on the link that says “Parking Fees and Information.” Click on the link that says “click here.” This link will take you to the online application form. Complete the online application by filling out the requested information and a parking permit will be mailed to you.

I have moved – what do I need to do?

If you have moved and changed your address, please notify ISP within 10 days of your moving. It is very important that you inform us of any address changes, because we need to report your updated address to SEVIS. Please come by Admissions and Records Office and fill out an address update form. The Admissions and Records Office is located at Coastline’s College Center.

I need to travel out of the country – what do I need?

If you are traveling out of the country, you must ensure that the following criteria are met:

1. Your passport is valid. Please renew your passport 6 months prior to its expiration.
2. Your visa is valid. Please note that if your stay outside of the U.S. is longer than 5 months, you will need to apply for a new visa.
3. Your I-20 is up-to-date and valid. You will need a current travel signature. Please note that travel signatures are valid for 1 year; however, we recommend obtaining an updated travel signature every 6 months. Please ensure that all of the information on your I-20 is current, and your stay does not exceed the I-20’s expiration date.
4. You are current on your student health insurance.
5. You are currently enrolled on a full-time basis.

I want to change my major – what should I do?

If you need to change your major, you first need to meet with an academic counselor. You may make an appointment to meet with a counselor through the Counseling Department. During your appointment, you will generate a new academic plan with your counselor. Please bring your new academic plan to the ISP. We will make a copy of your new plan, and begin the process of updating your SEVIS record and I-20. Please allow us between 5-7 business days to issue you a new I-20 with your updated major.

How does the transfer process work?

The process is simple. If international students are transferring to CCC from another school within the U.S., the transfer must be completed within 60 days of completion at the prior school. A transfer form will be provided by the ISP when the student is accepted to CCC. Take this form and your CCC acceptance letter to your previous school for completion. Once we receive this form, a transfer I-20 can be issued by Coastline's Immigration technician.

I was accepted to another school and want to transfer from Coastline. What do I need to do?

If you have been accepted to another school and wish to transfer, please bring us your acceptance letter from the institution. You will possibly have a transfer authorization form from your new institution, which should be filled out, and submitted to Coastline. You will also need to fill out a statement of understanding. We will process your request within 5-7 business days.

How do I request transcripts from Coastline?
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From www.coastline.edu homepage, under "Admissions," please click "Students Records & Transcripts" link. The click on the link that says "Official Transcripts" then the link that says "Click Here to Order Your Transcripts Online." This link will take you to the online application form.

What should I do if I want to drop a class because I am struggling?

Most importantly, do **NOT** drop your class without consulting with someone from ISP, especially if your enrollment falls below full-time! Coastline has resources for students who are struggling in their classes! Your instructor is a valuable resource; he/she may be able to assist you with extra reading, or suggested study tips or resources. If you have tried this method, and still want to drop a class, please come by and speak to the International Student Advisor about your desire to drop a class. Please note that you are required to be enrolled in and complete at least 12 units. You will need to meet with our Immigration Technician BEFORE you drop below full-time. Dropping a class and being enrolled in less than 12 units will have negative immigration-related consequences.