STUDENT TRAVELING TO THE USA

Student applies to school. If accepted, Sierra College will mail student an acceptance letter and a Form I-20.

Student takes financial information, valid passport, SEVIS receipt, and I-20 to U.S. consulate office in embassy or consular (Department of State). Student completes visa application and may be interviewed for visa.

If approved, student is given visa in passport and entire I-20 returned in sealed envelope. If visa is denied, student may apply again. Please see U.S. consulate officer for details.

Student goes to airline counter for travel to U.S. In addition to checking ticket and baggage, airline clerk makes sure individual has visa.

Upon arrival in the U.S. the officer at the port of entry will electronically record the traveler/student arrival and then place an admission stamp in the passport which shows the date of admission, class of admission and the date the traveler/student is admitted until.

On the initial entry in F-1 status, the immigration official must be satisfied that the student intends to attend the school specified on the F-1 visa. The immigration officers will double check the documents provided, upon entry, that the person entering the U.S. is in fact the same person who applied for and was issued the visa. Once you have been admitted, the admission officer will stamp your passport with the date and place of entry, the student’s status as an F-1 student, a unique 11-digit admission (A) number and stamped D/S (duration of status). **Please note that if you entered the United States on a Sierra College I-20, you must attend Sierra College at least one semester before transferring.** Please do not enter the country more than 30 days prior to the start date on your I-20.