

U.S IMMIGRATION REGULATIONS

1. **F-1 Student Visa:** The most common type of visa is the student visa (F-1). You are most likely required to have this type of visa classification to study at Valley Forge Military Academy. If you have any questions, please email lmontgomery@vfmac.edu or Admissions_Academy@vfmac.edu
2. **Application Fee (\$100), Deposit Fee (\$500):** Once you have been accepted to VFMA and have provided a photocopy of the passport and submitted proof of financial capability (bank statement), VFMA will issue a Certificate of Eligibility (I-20 form for F-1 visa students)
3. **I-20, Certificate of Eligibility:** This document and your passport should be presented to the Consular section of a U.S Embassy or Consul in order to obtain the appropriate visa in order to enter the United States as a student. You should visit the U.S State Departments website and the website of your local Embassy or Consulate prior to scheduling your appointment.

ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES

1. **Port of Entry:** When you arrive at a port of entry in the United States, you will be required to present your I-20 form to the Immigration Officer. The Student Visa (F1) will NOT grant you permission to enter the United States, entry is at the discretion of the Immigration Official at your port of entry.
2. **I-94 Arrival Record:** The [form I-94](#) , which is an EXTREMELY important document, indicates the date when your permission to remain in the United States expires and should be printed out for your student's records along every time you enter the U.S.
3. **Copy of I-20:** F-1 students will be issued a copy of their I-20 form. This document must ALWAYS accompany your passport as long as you are a student. **All first-year students must turn in passports with the I-20 must be turned into the DSO and will be held with either the DSO or the international admissions counselor- destination will be determined at the start of each academic year and students will be made aware of where they will be able to pick up their passport. *Students MUST sign out with the DSO prior to leaving for any breaks, and ensure that the I-20 document is signed before departing the country to avoid re-entry issues.***

Valley Forge Military Academy International Admissions

The following information should be kept for your records as this pertains to the visa documents and passport(s) for your son.

1. The following information must be received by the Admissions Office PRIOR to a U.S Department of Immigration form, I-20 being issued for your son to apply for a F-1 Student Visa:
 - a. Documentation of acceptance to Valley Forge Military Academy
 - b. Photocopy of your son's passport and any visa currently held
 - c. Current bank statement translated in English with U.S Dollar amounts
2. When you are in receipt of the I-20 form, you will need to schedule an appointment with the U.S Embassy or Consulate to interview for the F-1 Student Visa. Each Embassy or Consulate has its own criteria for the interview process, check your local Embassy/Consulate's website for exact details.

Required Documentation

There are several steps to apply for a student visa. Below is a guideline for you; however, the order of these steps and how you complete them may vary by U.S Embassy or Consulate. It is strongly recommended you check instructions on the [embassy or consulate website](#).

1. Each applicant for a student visa must pay a nonrefundable application [I-901 SEVIS fee](#) prior to scheduling a visa interview.
2. Complete the Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application, [Form DS-160](#) and print the application form confirmation page to bring to your interview.
3. Photo upload required while completing the online DS-160. Your photo must be in the format explained in the ["Photograph Requirements"](#).
4. A passport valid for travel to the United States and with a validity date at least six (6) months beyond the applicant's intended period of stay in the United States.
5. Certificate of Eligibility: Form I-20.
6. Evidence of funds sufficient to cover cost of attendance.

Other Documentation

Student visa applicants must establish to the satisfaction of the consular officer that they have binding ties to a residence in a foreign country which they have no intention of abandoning, and that they will depart the United States when they have completed their studies. It is impossible to specify the exact form the evidence should take since applicants' circumstances vary greatly. Examples would be deeds to property, letter of satisfactory employment, tax documents, or pay stubs.

U.S PORT OF ENTRY

Applicants should be aware that a visa **does not** guarantee entry into the United States. The INS has authority to deny admission. Also, the period for which the bearer of a student visa is authorized to remain in the United States is determined by the INS, not the consular officer. As the port of entry, an INS official validates Form I-94, Record of Arrival-Departure, which notes the length of stay permitted.

1. If the student is denied a student visa, you must contact the Admissions Office **IMMEDIATELY**, speak with the International Admissions Counselor/DSO and return the I-20 form that was issued, as it is no longer valid.
2. Within 24-hours of arrival at Valley Forge, students are required to report to the DSO to surrender their passport(s), I-20 form, and I-94 form. We are required to secure these documents in the Admissions Office in a safe while the cadet is in residence during his first year at Valley Forge. If the cadet needs the document for any reason, they may visit the Admissions Office during business hours with permission to sign out their documents. If an emergency arises during non-business hours, please have your student's TAC officer contact the International Academy Admissions Counselor to make arrangements for passport retrieval. The student will be required to return these documents to the Admissions Office again within 24-hours after his return.
3. The student must be re-enrolled prior to the end of the academic year, otherwise, we will not be able to release the I-20 to him for the summer break. If they are not re-enrolled, and intend to come back, you may have to go through the visa application process again, as authorization from Valley Forge can be terminated with the INS.
4. If the cadet loses their I-20 form, a new one cannot be issued without a new, current bank statement being provided to the Admissions Office. It is also the student's responsibility to ensure the passport remains valid while in the United States.

If you have any questions on your student's status while at Valley Forge, please contact your admissions counselor.