CT State: One College International Student Admissions Overview

Facilitators – the International Student Admissions Team:

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Helpful Terms

- **International Student** – a student who is in the US specifically for the purpose of study, is not a US citizen or permanent resident ("green card" holder) and has non-immigrant F-1 visa status.

- **F-1 Visa** – the type of visa our international students receive to study in the US.

- **DSO** – Designated School Official – an employee assisting and overseeing students who are studying at a US institution on a student visa.

- **PDSO** – Principal Designated School Official - a DSO with added responsibilities.

- **SEVP** – Student and Exchange Visitor Program – a program that on behalf of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), manages schools and international students. In order to enroll international students, schools must be SEVP-certified.

- **SEVIS** - Student and Exchange Visitor Information System – a web-based system DHS uses to maintain information on SEVP-certified schools, international students and exchange visitors.

- **I-20 Form (Certificate of Eligibility)** - document issued by a SEVP-certified school certifying that a student has been admitted to a full-time degree program and has demonstrated sufficient financial resources to stay in the United States. The I-20 form allows foreign nationals to apply for an F-1 student visa at a U.S. embassy or consulate abroad.
CT State International Students

• 300+ current international students
• 40+ countries (top countries are Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Nigeria, Jamaica)
• Norwalk Campus hosts most of our international students
International Student Admissions Team’s Main Tasks and Duties

Compliance and Reporting

- Maintaining and meeting SEVIS regulatory requirements
- **Maintaining CT State’s SEVP certification** - Currently, 9 out of 12 campuses hold individual SEVP certifications and can continue to accept international students. Once CT State’s NECHE accreditation is finalized in the Summer of 2023, the International Team will start the SEVP certification process for CT State as one institution, and it will include all 12 campuses. This process may take up to a year, and the International Team will be working closely with our regional SEVP representative to ensure compliance.

- Advising students, their sponsors, and CT State’s leadership on federal regulations related to visa procedures
International Student Services

• Working with prospective, new, current and former international students on all aspects of the F1 student visa
• Communicating with prospective students and effectively conducting pre-admission counseling to ensure a thorough understanding of SEVIS requirements
• Continuous counseling of international students during the entire tenure at CT State with the focus on maintaining legal status, employment and travel regulations, extension of stay, change of status, cultural and financial needs, as well as the available student services on each campus
• Updating and maintaining student information in SEVIS
• Managing all phases of international student application and file reviews and ensuring smooth transitions for enrolling students
Outreach and Recruitment

• Developing and implementing marketing and outreach strategies to increase our international student enrollment

• Working with international education agencies, universities and colleges abroad and in the US to promote CT State internationally

• Building and maintaining relationships with SEVP-certified secondary schools in CT and promoting CT State on their campuses

• Representing CT State at on- and off-campus events
Training

- Developing and facilitating training materials and professional development workshops for student service staff and faculty
- Developing and facilitating training materials, webinars and info-sessions for prospective, new and current international students
International Students Website

- Web page link: https://ctstate.edu/international-students
- Information for prospective, new and continuing students, as well as advisors, student service staff, and faculty
- Links to useful resources, guides, and forms
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QUESTIONS?

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