

## **Overview of F-1 or M-1 Entry Process:**

1. Student applies to Lenoir Community College and gains admission.
2. School generates the Form I-20 and sends it to the student.
3. After receiving the Form I-20, the prospective student must pay the SEVIS I-901 fee at [www.fmjfee.com](http://www.fmjfee.com), the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement Student and Exchange Visitor Program processing website.
4. The student takes the Form I-20 to an American Embassy or Consulate for an interview and obtains an F or M Visa no earlier than 90 days before the reporting date on the Form I-20.
5. Student presents the Form I-20 and Visa at the U. S. Port of Entry no more than 30 days before the program start date on the Form I-20.

## **Maintaining F-1 and M-1 Status**

- Register and maintain a minimum of 12 credit hours every Fall and Spring semester. If you have difficulty with this requirement, you must meet with the Primary Designated School Official (PDSO) to discuss your situation before you register. F-1 and M-1 Visa status has no provision for part-time study.
- Know the expiration date of your Form I-20, Visa and Passport. Your Form I-20 can be extended or changed by the PDSO. Your Visa can only be renewed outside the U.S. at a Consulate or Embassy in your home country. Your Passport can be renewed in the U.S. by your home country embassy.
- DO NOT work without authorization. Work authorization for F-1 and M-1 students is very limited.
- Keep the PDSO notified of any changes in your mailing address, phone number, Visa status or enrollment status.

**Remember** - It is always best to check with the International Student Advisor if you have questions about immigration or Visa status issues.

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## **International Students in Distance Learning Courses**

Non-U.S. citizens are welcome to enroll in Distance Learning courses (Internet courses). Since a student taking Distance Learning courses will reside outside of the physical boundaries of the United States, he or she will be exempt from the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) regulations and Visa requirements. A student follows the same admission procedure to Lenoir Community College for Distance Learning courses as U.S. citizens. See the section in the Lenoir Community College Catalog on General Admission requirements for more information. All Distance Learning international students will be charged out-of-state tuition rates established by the North Carolina General Assembly.