What do to next?

Congratulations on your admission to Lone Star College! As you begin preparing to come to the U.S. below are some important next steps

Next Steps Checklist:

☐ Please check your I-20 to make sure all your details including name, date of birth and major are listed accurately. If you notice any discrepancies please notify your DSO/ISA immediately.

☐ Pay your SEVIS I-901 fee. On more information and step by step instructions on paying your SEVIS Fee please watch this tutorial. You will need to show proof of payment when you have your F-1 visa interview. Keep a copy of this receipt.

☐ Make an appointment to apply for your F-1 visa. This can be done as soon as you receive your I-20. If time is short, your SEVIS ID number can be emailed to you. You can make the appointment using the SEVIS ID number while you wait for the original document to be mailed to you. Please note that you will need to take the original I-20 for the appointment. No copies will be accepted. Please keep us informed of the status of your visa. The U.S. Department of State issues visas at U.S. embassies and consulates. The visa application process includes an interview with a U.S. Department of State representative, or consular officer. This interview is your opportunity to tell the consular officer about your plans while in the United States and what you will do when you have completed your studies.

☐ Here are things to prepare for and expect in your visa interview:

   ➢ You must show proof of your acceptance to Lone Star College. Your Form I-20, “Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status,” and Lone Star College acceptance letter can verify your acceptance.

   ➢ You must show that you have the financial ability to pay for school costs plus living expenses (in the amount shown on your Form I-20 that you received) For the interview, bring copies of the financial documents (such as bank statements) you provided to the school. You must also bring your I-901SEVIS Fee receipt to prove you submitted your payment to SEVP.

   ➢ If you are applying for an F-1 visa, you should be ready to show you are prepared for the academic program in which you plan to enroll. To do this, the Department of State suggests that you bring copies of any standardized test scores, academic transcripts, diplomas or certificates from previous education that you provided in your application to Lone Star College.
- You may be asked to confirm that your stay in the United States is temporary (i.e., you are not permanently immigrating).

- The interviewing official may be interested to know how you intend to use the education you receive in the United States when you return home.

- Beware of anyone who offers to sell you the documents described above that are needed to receive a visa. Always provide genuine documents, original and not counterfeit, with your visa application.

- Please watch the Education USA video on U.S. Visas
Practice Visa Interview Questions and Tips

Please note that the following is not a comprehensive list of questions. These are potential questions that may be asked at your visa interview.

The sole authority to approve or deny visa applications is given to the consular officers at U.S. Embassies and Consulates.

Applying for an F1 visa is not primarily a document based process. In many cases the visa application form and information provided by the applicant during the visa interview is sufficient for the consular officer to determine eligibility for a visa. Along with supporting documents you must be able to speak credibly, knowledgeably and in depth about your purpose of travel, intent and what will compel you to leave the U.S.

Sample questions

♣ Why do you want to study in the U.S.?
   Eg: if I receive a U.S. degree it will be recognized worldwide. Also U.S is closer to home. I will also gain international experience that is much needed for my future career.

♣ Why did you choose to study at Lone Star College?
   Eg: Lone Star has small class sizes and I can receive personalized attention from faulty. Lone Star fees are affordable.

♣ What is your selected major? Why does it interest you or what you hope to do with it?
   Eg: You can mention how passionate you are about your study and that it will help you in the future.

♣ What will be your core classes?
   Please look up your classes on the Lone Star College website

♣ Do you know any faculty members at Lone Star College?
   Please look up any faculty members within your department.

♣ What are your plans after your graduate?
   Eg: Return home to work at_____ or as ____ or to help my family. Highlight family ties to your home country and that you will return or pursue higher studies.

♣ How will you support your studies and yourself?
   State who your sponsor is and the reason why they can support you- good job, make enough money, only child etc
Tips:
♣ Dress professionally
♣ Be polite to the visa officer
♣ Speak naturally and don’t sound rehearsed in your answers
♣ Your interview may last 1-2 minutes. Give short answers and to the point

Checklist of what to bring to the visa interview: This is not an exhaustive list, please check the U.S. embassy website
♣ SEVIS Fee payment receipt
♣ Passport - should be valid for over 6 months
♣ Lone Star issued I-20
♣ Lone Star acceptance letter
♣ Bank statement and other financial documents
♣ Academic transcripts for High school or college, test scores