



International School of Curacao

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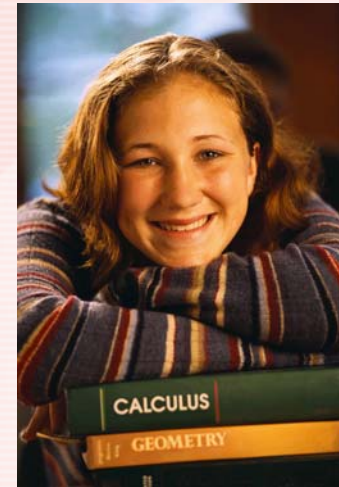
Studying in the United States

- Welcome!
- Topics for tonight
 - Basic US university information
 - Transitioning to university in the US
 - US student visas

Where do I begin?

University Preparation:

- Academic performance -all 4 years count!
- Activities and awards: build a resume
- Exploring careers and majors
- Testing (SAT, TOEFL)
- College search/visits
- Application process (letters of recommendation, essays, transcripts, official test scores, fees)



Suggested Test-Taking Schedule

	Sem 1	Sem 2
10 th grade	PSAT	
11 th grade	PSAT SAT prep course* SAT I*	SAT I TOEFL SAT II*
12 th grade	SAT I** SAT II* (* **Retake if needed)	IB exams

(*Optional)

Tests

- TOEFL
 - At ISC on Sep 20, Oct 25, Nov 22
 - Register online at www.toefl.org
- PSAT
 - At ISC on Oct 15
- SAT
 - At ISC on Nov 1, Dec 6, May 2 (2009)
 - Register online at www.collegeboard.com

College Search

Choose the type of institution

- ***Liberal Arts College***-A 4 year program, broad general knowledge. Often students go on to graduate programs to specialize in one area.
- ***University***-A 4 year organization, large, granting both undergraduate and graduate programs from a variety of "schools" or "colleges."
- ***Engineering and Technical Colleges***-Independent professional schools offering engineering and physical science majors. Also known as Technology or Polytechnic Institutes.
- ***Community/Junior Colleges***-Offer 2 year associate degrees, equivalent to the first two years of a bachelor's degree program.

Admissions Terms

- **Early Decision**-Student applies early (Oct/Nov) and receives early notification of admission decision. Only for clear first choice school – it's a commitment to enroll if accepted.
- **Early Action**-Student applies early (Oct/Nov) and receives early notification of admission decision but no advance commitment.
- **Rolling Admission**-Applications considered and notified in order received until class is filled. Best to apply early.
- **Open Admission**-Any applicant with a high school diploma is accepted.
- **Wait Listed**- Not initially accepted, but who may be accepted depending on the number of already accepted students who enroll.

What do I look for in a university?

THE RIGHT MATCH!!!

- Location
- Geographic region/weather
- Type of institution
- Size (community, university, class)
- Academic interest/atmosphere
- Social atmosphere/quality of life/activities
- Cost issues \$\$\$\$
- Competitiveness
- Supports (family, university, intl student services)

Financial Aid

- **U.S. citizens**-FAFSA (www.ed.gov/prog_info/SFA/FAFSA) and CSS Profile form (www.collegeboard.com).
- **International Students**-Aid from universities. (Certificate of Finances form-www.collegeboard.com)
- **Types of Aid**-Scholarships, Loans, Work Study programs
 - Merit vs. Need-based financial aid
- **Web-sites for International Students:**
 - www.eduPASS.org
 - www.fastweb.com
 - www.iefaf.org

Accepted & Enrolled...Now What?

- Inform all universities/colleges of decision
- Arrange for US student visa
- Arrange for housing and payment of tuition
- Prepare mentally for transition
- Have a great summer!


Moving on....



- **Spreading your wings – anxiety, excitement**
 - Leaving home and familiar to enter new environment, new people, new culture
 - Period of adjustment – first 3 months honeymoon phase, followed by homesickness, then adaptation
- **International Student Support Services**
 - Attend orientation
 - Introduce yourself to the coordinator, use them like a counselor. They can help you from everything to banking problems, doing your laundry with a coin operated machine and guide you in the right direction.
- **Student Support Services** (Career Center, Housing, Health Services, Academic Advising) know what's available, explore, and utilize services.
- **Social support**
 - Build new social supports, become involved in social activities and clubs.
 - Realistic expectations - not everyone will be friendly; you will meet people with different values and cultures, be open to this and learn from others, share your ideas with them. Step out of your comfort zone.
 - Keep in touch with friends and family from home

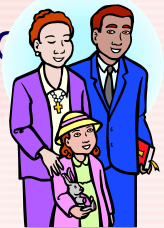


Living Student Life

- Independence, personal freedom and responsibility
Students must decide for themselves to go to class or skip, eat right or subsist on pizza and fast food, sleep or party, seek help with academic and personal problems or try to handle it on their own. May make mistakes, but learn from them and remember you are the one in charge now of your life.
- Good Habits
Exercise, time management, study between classes, and use a calendar and agenda, a deadline is a deadline.
- Drinking on campus-Legal drinking age is 21 in the U.S.! 
It is OK not to drink, to leave a situation if you don't feel safe or to only go out on weekends. There are enough people at your college to find individuals who fit your style. Be confident and be yourself.

Parent Support

- Major life change – for parents, siblings and students; be prepared and open for variety of feelings and behaviors, do not overlook your own reactions and siblings, communicate!
- Talk about strategies for coping with feelings, making mistakes, and discuss a plan if something tragic happens at home while they are away.
- Transitioning into independence and young adulthood; allow them room to grow (e.g. if you haven't cut the apron strings yet, start letting your child make more decisions and problem solving for themselves. Ask them what they feel they should do, rather than telling them what you would do.)
- Let students know you will always be there for them and support them (e.g. redecorating their room as soon as they leave, or selling the family house without any warning)





US Student Visa

