

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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ENGLISH PROFICIENCY SCORES

What are the English Proficiency requirements for international applicants seeking admission, including details on exemptions and the process for waiving the English Proficiency Score?

International applicants applying to undergraduate or graduate programs are required to demonstrate English proficiency. The English score is valid for two years from the date of the test.

For ***undergraduate*** programs, the necessary scores are:

- TOEFL iBT minimum score of 74
- IELTS minimum score of 6.0
- Duolingo minimum score of 90
- EIKEN STEP: Level 1, along with a mandatory math placement exam
- PTE Academic minimum score of 59

For ***graduate*** programs, the necessary scores are:

- TOEFL iBT minimum score of 79
- IELTS minimum score of 6.5
- Duolingo minimum score of 101
- PTE Academic minimum score of 53

International students who have earned a degree or diploma at an English-speaking high school, college, or university are exempt from the English Proficiency Score requirement.

Applicants who may qualify for an English proficiency exemption do not need to request a waiver separately. Once all required transcripts and supporting documents have been received, the International Admissions office will review the application and determine whether the applicant meets the criteria for an exemption. Because exemption eligibility cannot be verified until the academic record has been reviewed, applicants should plan to submit all required documents as early as possible.

What can I do if I do not meet the English proficiency requirements to attend Carson-Newman?

It is recommended that those who do not achieve a passing score on an English proficiency test continue to study to improve their English skills and reattempt their English test after further study. You may wish to explore the English Language webpage of Education USA for more information.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

How do I apply to an UNDERGRADUATE program at Carson-Newman University as an international freshman or international transfer student?

1. ***Begin the Application Process:***

   Visit the university's application page at Carson-Newman University Application.

2. ***Access the Application Form:***

   Click on the blue "Apply Now" link located beneath the "First-time freshmen and transfer students" section. This will redirect you to the "Application Management" page.

3. ***Create an Account:***

   As a first-time user, create an account by clicking the blue link under "First Time Users." Provide your email address, name, and date of birth. Remember to write down the password you create, as you will need it for future logins.

4. ***Start a New Application:***

   Once your account is set up, click "Start New Application." Select "undergraduate application" in the drop-down menu since you are applying to start a bachelor's degree program.

5. ***Fill Out the Citizenship Section:***

   In the citizenship section of the application, **do not** click on the "permanent resident" box. Instead, select your country from the dropdown menu. For residency status, choose "visa" and then select F-1 for the visa type. If you are a *transfer* student currently attending school in the U.S., please make sure you list your home country address when requested for your mailing address to ensure that your application will be appropriately assigned to international admissions.

6. ***Complete the Application:***

   Proceed to fill out the rest of the application. The questions are generally straightforward, but if you encounter any difficulties or have questions, you can email internationaladmissions@cn.edu for assistance.

7. ***Submit Your Application:***

   After completing the application, submit it through the system.

8. ***Check and Manage Your Application Status:***

   Each time you log in post-submission, you can visit the "application status" page, where you can track the progress of your application. Here, you will find a list of additional items and documents required to complete your application. Please note that your list will be updated once your submitted documents have been reviewed and confirmed to meet the necessary criteria. We encourage you to check this status page regularly for any updates to your application materials list.

How do I apply to a GRADUATE program at Carson-Newman University as an international student?

1. ***Begin the Application Process:***

   Visit the university's application page at Carson-Newman University Application.

2. ***Access the Application Form:***

   Click on the blue "Apply Now" link located beneath the "Graduate and adult students" section. This will redirect you to the "Application Management" page.

3. ***Create an Account:***

   As a first-time user, create an account by clicking the blue link under "First Time Users." Provide your email address, name, and date of birth. Remember to write down the password you create, as you will need it for future logins.

4. ***Start a New Application:***

   Once your account is set up, click "Start New Application." Select "graduate application" in the drop-down menu since you are applying to start a master's degree program.

5. ***Fill Out the Citizenship Section:***

   In the citizenship section of the application, **do not** click on the "permanent resident" box. Instead, select your country from the dropdown menu. For residency status, choose "visa" and then select F-1 for the visa type. In addition, if you are currently completing your bachelor's degree at a school in the U.S., please make sure you list your home country

address when requested for your mailing address to ensure that your application will be appropriately assigned to international admissions.

6. ***Complete the Application:***

   Proceed to fill out the rest of the application. The questions are generally straightforward, but if you encounter any difficulties or have questions, you can email adult@cn.edu for assistance.

7. ***Submit Your Application:***

   After completing the application, submit it through the system.

8. ***Check and Manage Your Application Status:***

   Each time you log in post-submission, you can visit the "application status" page, where you can track the progress of your application. Here, you will find a list of additional items and documents required to complete your application. Please note that your list will be updated once your submitted documents have been reviewed and confirmed to meet the necessary criteria. We encourage you to check this status page regularly for any updates to your application materials list.

What are the application deadlines?

Carson-Newman recommends that international students complete their admissions files by the following dates:

Fall Semester (August entry): May 31

Spring Semester (January entry): October 31

These dates are designed to provide sufficient time for application review, I-20 issuance, visa scheduling, and travel planning prior to the start of classes.

Because visa appointment availability varies significantly by country, international students are strongly encouraged to complete their applications as early as possible. Students should review current visa appointment wait times at their nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate and allow adequate time to complete all admissions and immigration requirements before the semester begins.

(Please note that some academic programs may have additional requirements or earlier deadlines. Applicants should review the requirements for their intended program carefully.)

After submitting your application, you may monitor your progress through your Application Status Page. This page contains a checklist of required documents, links to forms, and additional instructions related to your application. Your checklist will be updated as documents are reviewed and processed, so we encourage you to check it regularly.

APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

How do I submit the required documents for my application?

1. ***Accessing Your Account:***

   Navigate to the "Application Management" page and click on the blue "Log in" link under the "Returning Users" section.

2. ***Selecting Your Application:***

   On your Application Management page, under the section "Your Applications," click on the application for which you want to submit documents and open the application. This will take you to your "Application Status Page."

3. ***Reviewing Required Documents:***

   Under the section "Application Checklist," you can view a list of all the documents that you are required to submit for your application. You can also access the fillable and online forms via the links in your checklist.

4. ***Preparing to Upload Documents:***

   Under the "Upload Materials" section, you will see a dropdown menu. Click on the small arrow pointing down and select the document type you want to submit. If you do not find a title that is the same as the document you wish to upload, please choose the "Miscellaneous" option.

5. ***Uploading Documents:***

   Click on the grey "Choose File" button and select the document you want to submit from your device.

6. ***Finalizing the Upload:***

   After selecting the document, click the "Upload" button to complete the submission process. Please note that your list will be updated once your submitted documents have been reviewed and confirmed to meet the necessary criteria. We encourage you to check this status page regularly for any updates to your application materials list.

Important Notes:

- Please note that your transcript and any other test scores must be **official** documents. To be considered official, the transcript or test score must be sent to Carson-Newman directly from the school/institution where you obtained it. Once you submit your application, you will receive emails with detailed instructions for all the documents you are required to submit.
- While you may notice "Photo Copy of Visa" included in your checklist, it is important to understand that it is **not** a requirement for the *initial* application process. You will be required to upload a copy of your visa only *after* you have received it from the U.S. embassy. Remember that you are eligible to apply for the visa only after completing your application and receiving an I-20 form.

As an international undergraduate freshman, what specific documents are required for my application submission to Carson-Newman University?

1. ***Official transcript (in English):***

   Official transcripts are a crucial component of your university application and provide the academic record used to evaluate your eligibility for admission. To be considered *official*, transcripts must be sent directly from the issuing school or institution. If your transcript is not originally issued in English, it must be accompanied by a certified English translation (self-translated documents are not acceptable).

   For admissions purposes, Carson-Newman may conduct an initial review using official transcripts and certified translations provided directly by the issuing institution.

   Submission Options:

   Your school or university can send us your official transcript through one of the following methods:

   a) *Email Delivery to internationaladmissions@cn.edu:*
      The email must be sent from an *official* school email address. Transcripts sent from personal accounts like Gmail or Yahoo cannot be accepted. We also cannot receive transcripts directly from students.
   b) *Online Transcript Service:* Your school can send it securely using an electronic delivery service like Parchment, National Student Clearinghouse, or Common App.

c) *Postal Mail:* Send the transcript in a sealed envelope, accompanied by a cover letter on the school's letterhead. The mailing address is:

Office of Admissions
1645 Russell Avenue
Jefferson City, TN 37760
United States of America
Attention: Chris Best

If your school or university's official email is a commercial account, please use either an online transcript service or postal mail options.

2. ***Credential Evaluation Requirement (Effective Spring 2027):***

Freshman international students applying directly from secondary/high school outside the United States may be *initially* admitted using official transcripts and certified English translations submitted by their school.

After admission, students will be required to provide a professional course-by-course credential evaluation of their *final* secondary school transcript from a member agency of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) before enrollment can be finalized.

Because final secondary school transcripts are not available until graduation, students should **not** obtain a credential evaluation using incomplete or in-progress academic records. Students are encouraged to begin planning for this requirement early, as credential evaluations may take several weeks to complete.

How to Complete This Requirement:

1. Select a credential evaluation agency that is a current member of NACES.

2. Request a course-by-course evaluation with grade equivalency.

3. Wait until your final academic records are available before beginning the evaluation process. Evaluations based on incomplete or in-progress transcripts may require an additional evaluation later.

4. Arrange for the completed evaluation to be sent directly to Carson-Newman University. Evaluations may be sent to internationaladmissions@cn.edu. If the agency requires a physical mailing address, please use the address listed above.

3. ***Confirmation of Financial Support (CFS):***

This form is to be filled out by you and your sponsor (if applicable), stating that financial support in the total amount listed for your program is available to cover the estimated cost of attendance at C-N. You can complete this form electronically via the link in your "Application Checklist."

4. ***An official copy of a bank letter:***

The U.S. government requires proof of financial support from all international students applying for an F-1 visa to study in the U.S. Therefore, all students must show in advance that they can pay at least one year of all estimated expenses associated with their travel and education here in the U.S. To verify the support noted on the Confirmation of Financial Support, we must require each individual providing support (parent, sponsor, or student, if self-funding) to request a letter from their bank to verify account status and the amount available. Please be sure to comply with the bank letter instructions provided in the application portal. We cannot accept online banking printouts.

If you are to receive a scholarship, please provide a letter that confirms the dollar amount and your eligibility for said scholarship.

5. ***A copy of your passport photo page:***

Scan (in color if possible) or take a photo of the picture page of your passport and upload it to your application portal. Please note that your passport must not be within 6 months of expiration. Also, please provide passports for any dependents traveling with you (refer to *F-1 STUDENT VISA* section for more information on dependents).

6. ***Application for a Certificate of Eligibility Non-immigrant Student Visa Form I-20:***

You will simply complete the form (*I-20 Application Form*), on which you provide us with all the personal information we need to prepare the I-20 form you will need to apply for your F-1 student visa. If you have dependents who will travel here with you (spouse and/or children), please provide the information requested on the F-2 dependent addendum to the I-

20 application. You can complete this form electronically via the link in your "Application Checklist."

7. ***English Proficiency Scores (if applicable):***

   International applicants to undergraduate or graduate programs are required to demonstrate English proficiency. *(For more information on this, please see the questions related to English Proficiency Scores.)*

   Please visit the C-N webpage on the academic program you are applying for to see what additional documents might be required for your application. Once you have submitted your application, you will have access to your "Application Status Page," where you will be able to see a list of the documents required for your application. This list will include links to fillable and online forms and additional instructions.

   You can also access our catalogs for more information.

As an international undergraduate transfer student, what additional requirements apply?

As an international *transfer* student, you are subject to the same requirements as listed in the above freshman section, with the following caveats:

1. ***Official Transcripts & Credential Evaluation:*** Transfer applicants must provide official transcripts from all colleges and universities previously attended.

   For admissions purposes, Carson-Newman may conduct an initial review using official post-secondary transcripts and certified English translations submitted directly by the issuing institution.

   In addition, transfer applicants with coursework completed at colleges or universities outside the United States will be required to provide a professional course-by-course credential evaluation of their final post-secondary academic transcripts from a member agency of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES). This evaluation assists the University in determining transfer credit and academic equivalencies. *(Please refer to the Credential Evaluation Requirement section above for detailed instructions.)*

   Transfer Credit Disclaimer: The completion of a credential evaluation does not guarantee the transferability of coursework. Carson-Newman University will conduct an independent

review of all transfer credits and reserves the right to determine course equivalencies and the applicability of transfer credit toward degree requirements.

2. ***Disciplinary Record Check:***

   Your Application Checklist contains a link to this form and instructions. Transfer applicants from other U.S. universities must disclose their disciplinary history from all schools they are currently attending or have previously attended.

3. ***Transfer-IN Release Form (only if you are transferring from a university in the U.S.):***

   Your Application Checklist contains a link to this form and instructions. International students transferring to Carson-Newman University from another university, college, high school, or English language program *in the United States* must complete this form. Please provide this form with your acceptance letter from Carson-Newman University to your current school's international student advisor (DSO) to complete Section II. Please email it to internationaladmissions@cn.edu.

As an international graduate student, what additional requirements apply?

International graduate applicants are generally subject to the same financial, immigration, and identity verification requirements listed in the undergraduate freshman section above, including (but not limited to):

- Confirmation of Financial Support (CFS)
- Official bank verification documents
- Passport identification page
- Form I-20 application materials

In addition, graduate applicants should be aware of the following requirements:

1. ***Official post-secondary transcript (in English):***

   Graduate applicants must provide official transcripts from all colleges and universities used as a basis for admission. To be considered official, transcripts must be sent directly from the issuing institution. If your transcript is not originally issued in English, it must be accompanied by a certified English translation (self-translated documents are not acceptable).

Submission Options:

Your institution can send us your official transcript through one of the following methods:

a) *Email Delivery to adult@cn.edu:*
The email must be sent from an *official* institutional email address. Transcripts sent from personal accounts like Gmail or Yahoo cannot be accepted. We also cannot receive transcripts directly from students.

b) *Online Transcript Service:* Your institution can send the transcript securely using an electronic delivery service like Parchment, National Student Clearinghouse, or Common App.

c) *Postal Mail:* Send the transcript in a sealed envelope, accompanied by a cover letter on the school's letterhead. The mailing address is:

Office of Admissions
1645 Russell Avenue
Jefferson City, TN 37760
United States of America
Attention: Ashley Bryant-Cheney

If your school or university's official email is a commercial account, please use either an online transcript service or postal mail options.

2. Credential Evaluation Requirement:

Graduate applicants with coursework completed at institutions outside the United States must also provide a professional course-by-course credential evaluation from a member agency of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES).

How to Complete This Requirement:

1. Select a credential evaluation agency that is a current member of NACES.

2. Request a course-by-course evaluation with grade equivalency.

3. If you are currently completing a degree program, please contact Graduate Admissions for guidance regarding the appropriate timing of your credential evaluation.

4. Arrange for the completed evaluation to be sent directly to Carson-Newman University. Evaluations may be sent to adult@cn.edu. If the agency requires a physical mailing address, please use the address listed above.

3. ***Program-Specific Requirements:***

   Graduate admission requirements vary by academic program. Additional materials such as resumes, recommendations, interviews, writing samples, prerequisite coursework, professional licensure documentation, or other supporting documents may be required.

   After submitting your application, please review your Application Status Page regularly. Your checklist will display all program-specific requirements applicable to your degree program.

TUITION, FEES, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

How much does it cost to attend Carson-Newman as an International Student?

For a breakdown of the estimated costs, please go to your "Application Status Page" and have a look at the *Cost of Attendance Reference Sheet* available under the section "Application Checklist" with the *Confirmation of Financial Support Form.*

You can also visit Carson-Newman's "Tuition & Costs" pages for more information:

- Undergraduate: https://www.cn.edu/admissions-and-aid/financial-aid/tuition-costs/
- Graduate: https://www.cn.edu/graduate-and-professional-studies/financial-aid/

What are the application and enrollment fees for Carson-Newman University?

It is FREE to apply to Carson-Newman! Apply here.

Once you have been accepted:

- *Undergraduate students:* There is a $200 non-refundable enrollment deposit.
- *Graduate students:* There is a $250 non-refundable enrollment deposit, which the student must pay before an I-20 can be issued. This amount is not an extra fee and is applied to the student's account.

What are the scholarship opportunities for an UNDERGRADUATE student at Carson-Newman?

- ***Merit Scholarship***

Carson-Newman University offers merit-based scholarships to qualified international undergraduate students. Scholarship awards are generally based on academic achievement and are determined through the admissions review process.

International students are automatically considered for applicable institutional scholarships once all required admissions materials have been received and reviewed.

Because scholarship programs, eligibility criteria, and award amounts may change, students should consult Carson-Newman's International Scholarships webpage for the most current information.

- ***Additional Scholarships Based on Major:***

We also offer some smaller scholarships, depending on major and other factors. Please visit University Scholarships | Carson-Newman University (cn.edu) for more information.

- ***FAFSA***

International applicants are **not** eligible to apply for federal financial aid or federal and state grants.

- ***Competitive Scholarships:***

a) Jesse Baker Scholarship

This scholarship covers full tuition, room, board, and books for one student per academic year. To be eligible to compete, applicants must have a GPA of 3.65 or higher *and* either a minimum SAT score of 1300 *or* a minimum ACT score of 28. Test scores and official transcripts must be submitted by December to be considered for eligibility and to receive further communication regarding additional application procedures for competing for this prestigious scholarship.

b) Honor Scholarship

This scholarship offers full tuition to five (5) students per academic year. To qualify to compete, applicants must have a GPA of 3.65 or higher *and* either an SAT score of at least 1300 *or* an ACT score of at least 28. These scores must be submitted by December to be considered for eligibility to compete and to receive further communication with details regarding the competition.

c) Tarr Full-Tuition Scholarship Competition for Music Majors

The School of Music hosts a department audition as an entrance requirement for prospective music majors. Additionally, they host a Tarr Full-Tuition Scholarship Competition in various areas such as instrument, voice, piano, organ, and strings *(full tuition scholarship will take into consideration all other grants and scholarship eligibility first).* Students planning to major in a music discipline should prepare and plan to attend the audition. An awarded student must continue as a music major and meet the required academic GPA as specified by the School of Music for renewal of scholarships.

d) Athletic Scholarships

To obtain an athletic scholarship, it's important to understand that the admissions office does not play a role in this process. Instead, athletic scholarships are managed and awarded by the coaches of each sport. Please see the section below for more information.

Does Carson-Newman offer fully funded scholarships?

As a small, private university, Carson-Newman is unable to offer fully funded scholarships.

Therefore, we suggest that you explore other independent scholarships you may be eligible for which are not sponsored by Carson-Newman. The following information can be found on the governmental webpage, "Study in the States:" International students can use Education USA's Find Financial Aid tool and visit their local Education USA advising center for more information about the options available to them.

What are the scholarship opportunities for a GRADUATE student at Carson-Newman?

Because tuition at the graduate level is offered at a tremendous discount, we are unable to offer scholarships to any student, domestic or international. However, after arriving on campus, several international students have been able to obtain graduate assistant positions which offer half-off tuition plus minimum wage for up to 20 hours of work per week. These positions, which are limited and therefore quite competitive, can only be offered to accepted students. Furthermore, they cannot be used as a means of financial support for the F-1 visa application process.

Therefore, we suggest that you explore other independent scholarships you may be eligible for which are not sponsored by Carson-Newman. The following information can be found on the governmental webpage, "Study in the States:" International students can use Education USA's Find Financial Aid tool and visit their local Education USA advising center for more information about the options available to them.

(If you are an athlete, please see the section below for more information regarding athletic scholarships.)

How do I get an athletic scholarship?

To obtain an athletic scholarship, it's important to understand that the admissions office does not play a role in this process. Instead, athletic scholarships are managed and awarded by the coaches of each sport. Here are the steps you can follow to pursue an athletic scholarship:

1. ***Contact the Coaches:***

   The first step is to get in touch with the coaches of the sport you are interested in. You can find the contact information for each coach on Carson-Newman University's website. Visit their Athletic Staff Directory to find the relevant coach for your sport.

2. ***Complete a Recruiting Questionnaire:***

   Carson-Newman University provides a recruiting questionnaire for prospective athletes. You can find and complete the questionnaire at Carson-Newman Athletics Recruiting.

3. ***Showcase Your Abilities:***

   In your communication with the coaches, be prepared to showcase your athletic abilities. This could include providing statistics, video footage of your performances, or any accolades you have received.

4. ***Follow-Up:***

   After initial contact and submitting the questionnaire, follow up with the coaches. Maintaining communication shows your interest and commitment to the program.

5. ***Understand the Requirements:***

   Each sport and coach may have different criteria for awarding scholarships. Make sure to understand these requirements and how you can meet them.

   Remember, obtaining an athletic scholarship is competitive, and it's important to proactively engage with the coaches, demonstrate your athletic prowess, and express your enthusiasm for joining their program.

F-1 STUDENT VISA

What is an F-1 Student Visa?

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) defines an F-1 Student Visa as follows:

The F-1 Visa (Nonimmigrant Academic Student) allows you to enter the United States as a full-time student at an accredited college, university, seminary, conservatory, academic high school, elementary school, or other academic institution or in a language training program. You must be enrolled in a program or course of study that culminates in a degree, diploma, or certificate and your school must be authorized by the U.S. government to accept international students.

How do I get an F-1 Student Visa?

Once you have completed your application to Carson-Newman *and have been accepted*, you will be given an I-20 form issued by Carson-Newman University which you can use to apply for your F-1 Student Visa at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate in your country. For more information on this application process please visit Travel.State.Gov on the "Student Visa" page scroll down to the "How to Apply" section and follow those steps carefully.

What is an F-2 Visa?

The F-2 visa is a non-immigrant visa for the dependents (spouse and unmarried children under 21) of F-1 student visa holders, allowing them to stay in the U.S. as long as the F-1 holder maintains legal status. F-2 holders cannot work but may engage in unpaid volunteer activities. Spouses cannot study full-time, though they may take non-degree courses, while children can attend K-12 schools. They can travel in and out of the U.S., but their status depends on the F-1 visa holder. If eligible, they can apply for a change of status to another visa type, such as F-1 or H-1B.

For more information on this topic please visit Study in the States: Brining dependents to the US page.

What happens if I get denied an F-1 Student Visa?

If your F-1 visa is denied, the consular officer usually provides the reason. If not, contact them for clarification. There is no appeal process for a visa denial; you must reapply. Understanding the reason for the initial denial is crucial to address any issues in your new application. Note that the terms visa refusal, rejection, and denial are used interchangeably and mean the same thing.

If your visa is not approved, there are three possible courses of action:

1. Additional documentation is requested for the current application.
2. Additional time is needed to process the current application.
3. The current visa application is denied, and a new application is needed.

Common types of visa denials:

INA section 221(g) *(Incomplete Application or Supporting Documentation)*	Application incomplete and/or additional documentation required – no new application is needed; you just need to submit the required documentation and your visa processing will continue. You have one year from the date of visa refusal to complete the application.
INA section 214(b) *(Visa Qualifications and Immigrant Intent)*	Failure to demonstrate nonimmigrant intent and/or failure to demonstrate that you qualify for the F-1 student visa.
INA section 212(a)(4) *(Public Charge)*	Failure to show you have sufficient finances to fund your education and living in the U.S. while attending school.
INA section 212(a)(9)(B)(i) *(Unlawful Presence in the U.S.)*	Previously entered the U.S. unlawfully or overstayed a visa.
INA section 212(a)(6)(C)(i) *(Fraud and Misrepresentation)*	There is evidence that you committed fraud or lied in an attempt to get a U.S. visa – this is a permanent denial, so you cannot reapply.

Source: Visa Denials

Tips for reapplying after student visa denial:

Please note that a previous visa denial may lead to increased scrutiny on future U.S. immigration applications. Only reapply after you have adequately addressed the denial's cause. While consular officers typically state the denial reason, some decisions are discretionary and less clear. In such

cases, consider reapplying at a different consulate or embassy, but ensure thorough preparation before doing so.

Before reapplying, consider these questions:

- What questions did the consular officer ask during the interview and how did you answer them?
- How did you explain your overall plan for your education?
- Is there additional information you can provide to clearly establish your intent to leave the U.S. after the completion of your studies?
- How did you present yourself at the interview and what will you do differently?
- What new documents will you include in your reapplication?
- Does the consulate have any special rules for reapplying?

Start the reapplication process as soon as possible because the next available visa interview appointment may be a long time away. It's essential to secure your visa before the school year begins. Check for other U.S. consulates in your country, as they may have earlier appointment times available.

You can read more regarding this information on Travel.State.Gov under "Visa Denials."

Important Note:

When you have reapplied and rescheduled your visa appointment, please ensure that your financial documentation is recently dated (within 6 months) and provide internationaladmissions@cn.edu your appointment confirmation, so that we are able to reissue an I-20 Form to you for the next available start date.

Carson-Newman University can defer an application only once within an academic year (from Fall to Spring). However, applications cannot be deferred from Spring to Fall, as Fall marks the beginning of a new academic year. In such cases, a new application will be required.

Carson-Newman admissions can postpone your enrollment date for only one semester. If you do not obtain your visa within that period, you will need to submit a new application.

What are some common reasons for F-1 Student Visa Denials?

If your student visa is denied, it indicates issues with your application, but you can reapply. There's no limit on the number of times you can apply, but avoid submitting identical applications. Misrepresentation or dishonesty on your application can lead to permanent visa ineligibility. It is important to understand the reasoning behind student visa denials to correct any mistakes.

1. ***Failure to prove your non-immigrant intent:***

   A common reason for visa denial is "immigrant intent," where applicants don't convincingly show plans to leave the U.S. after their degree. Despite many international students wishing to stay post-graduation, remember that the F-1 visa is temporary and non-immigrant. Your application and interview should clearly demonstrate your intention to return home after your studies, even if you plan to apply later for a work visa in the U.S. The primary purpose of an F-1 visa is to complete a specific higher education program.

   To demonstrate nonimmigrant intent for a visa, you can show:

   - Close family ties in your home country.
   - Ownership of property in your home country.
   - Financial connections to your home country.
   - A job offer in your home country post-graduation.
   - Involvement in organizations or communities in your home country.
   - A clean visa and immigration history.

2. ***Incomplete application form:***

   Your visa application, like your college application, must be fully and accurately completed to ensure acceptance/approval. Before submission, carefully review it for typos or minor errors.

3. ***Insufficient financial funds:***

   Most colleges and universities ask international applicants to demonstrate their ability to pay for their education before making final admissions decisions. However, you will have to show this again during the visa application process to demonstrate that you will not become a financial burden on U.S. citizens during your time here.

4. ***Poor academic performance:***

   When the school's admissions office accepted you, they showed confidence in your potential to succeed as an international student at their institution. A consular officer's role includes verifying this decision. They might ask for your transcripts, standardized test scores, or other academic records. To be prepared, bring copies of these documents to your visa interview.

5. ***Inadequate English proficiency:***

   Besides the English proficiency test scores you provided to the university, you'll also need to demonstrate your English skills during the interview with the consular officer. Practicing with a native English speaker can help.

   You might be asked questions like:

   - Have you been to the U.S. before?
   - Do you have family, relatives, or friends in the U.S.?
   - What will you be studying?
   - Why did you choose this particular university?

6. ***Poor visa interview***

   The consular officer's impression of you influences their interpretation of your interview responses. They assess your honesty and intentions, noting not just what you say but also how you say it, including your tone and body language. To improve your chances of success, dress in a professional yet simple manner and behave confidently yet respectfully. Practicing before the interview can make it easier to convey these qualities effectively.

7. ***Criminal history***

   Individuals with a criminal record, including most types of convictions and even traffic violations, are generally ineligible for U.S. student visas. It's crucial for international students to always abide by the law, as the consequences of legal issues can be more severe for them compared to domestic students.

8. ***Past violations of visa terms***

   This is typically not relevant for most international undergraduate students. However, it could affect graduate students who have previously held any type of U.S. visa, including a student

visa. If you have violated the terms of a past U.S. visa, for instance, by overstaying, you might be disqualified from obtaining a new visa.

You can read more regarding this information on Travel.State.Gov under "Visa Denials."

Can I change from a B/J-1/F-2 Visa to an F-1 Student Visa?

Yes, it is possible to change from a B (visitor), J-1 (exchange visitor), or F-2 (dependent of an F-1 student) visa to an F-1 student visa through a process that the U.S. government calls a "change of status."

However, there are specific procedures and requirements you must follow:

1. ***Admission to a SEVP-Certified School:***

   First, you must be accepted into a program at a school certified by the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP). Carson-Newman is certified.

2. ***Form I-20:***

   Once accepted, the university will issue you a Form I-20, which is necessary for the F-1 visa application.

Please note that Carson-Newman cannot assist you directly with this change of status process. We recommend that you consult with an immigration attorney on this matter.

For more information and guidance, please visit the USCIS website "Change My Nonimmigrant Status."

What is a Designated School Official (DSO)?

A Designated School Official is an individual authorized by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to verify and certify documents for F-1 international students and ensure that international students remain in compliance with Federal and State laws.

Can I work in the U.S. on an F-1 student visa?

Please keep in mind that the F-1 visa is a *student* visa and not a work visa! However, there are limited circumstances when you *may* be able to work in the U.S. on an F-1 visa, but there are strict rules and guidelines: It is vital that you consult with your DSO before you plan to start working!

1. ***On-Campus Employment:***

   F-1 students are generally allowed to work on-campus for up to 20 hours per week during the academic term and full-time during breaks and holidays. This does not require approval from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

2. ***Off-Campus Employment:***

   Off-campus employment is only permitted under very limited conditions and requires authorization. This includes:

   - Curricular Practical Training (CPT): For work experience that is an integral part of your curriculum, like internships or cooperative education programs.
   - Optional Practical Training (OPT): Allows you to work in your field of study for up to 12 months after completing your academic program. You must apply for OPT authorization through USCIS.
   - STEM OPT Extension: If you have a degree in certain science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields, you may be eligible for a 24-month extension of your OPT.

Remember, unauthorized employment can have serious consequences for your F-1 status. Always consult with your school's international student office before accepting any employment to ensure compliance with F-1 visa regulations.

For more information regarding employment on an F-1 Student visa, please visit the USCIS webpage "Students and Employment."

What should I do if my Visa interview date is scheduled after my program start date?

We are aware that U.S. visa appointments in many locations are difficult to obtain or that the appointments are booked up many months into the future. Unfortunately, we here at Carson-Newman are unable to assist directly with this type of situation.

Some U.S. Embassies and Consulates have an option for F-1 Students and J-1 Exchange Visitors to request an expedited visa appointment, though there is no guarantee that the visa office will be able to honor these requests.

Option 1:

To see if a U.S. Embassy or Consulate offers this option, go to USEmbassy.gov and find the specific location where you plan to apply for the visa. Then, search that location's website for information on emergency or expedited appointments.

Option 2:

Some U.S. embassies use a different website platform, which simplifies the process of finding information. Go to ustraveldocs.com. Choose the region and country and find the link *Apply for an Expedited Appointment*, which lists the qualifications and how to apply.

Documentation needed to qualify for an Expedited Appointment:

- Original I-20 Form indicating the start date of your program within 60 days.
- Evidence that you have paid the SEVIS fee.

Please understand that Carson-Newman University does **not** have the ability to influence the U.S. Department of State's visa process. Although we empathize with your situation regarding visa appointments, our capacity to help is limited. We can only provide additional support if the U.S. visa authorities request specific information about your program of study at Carson-Newman University.

ACT/SAT/CLT

What are ACT/SAT/CLT tests, and do I, as an international student, have to take them?

The ACT, SAT, and CLT are standardized tests commonly used in the United States for college admissions. These tests are optional for international students. However, test scores may be considered in the application and qualification process for certain scholarships. For more details, please refer to the section of this document on scholarships.

Let us know if you plan on taking one of these tests; if not, please inform us so that we can waive the requirement on your application. You can email us this information at internationaladmissions@cn.edu.

CPT, OPT, and STEM

What is CPT?

Curricular Practical Training (CPT) is a type of employment authorization for F-1 students that allows them to engage in practical training directly related to their major field of study. CPT must be an integral part of an established curriculum, such as through internships, cooperative education, or other required practicums offered by sponsoring employers in collaboration with the student's educational institution. Authorization for CPT is provided by the Designated School Official (DSO) at the student's institution and must be obtained before the student can begin the training. It's important to note that one year of full-time CPT eliminates a student's eligibility for Optional Practical Training (OPT).

Resources: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement – Practical Training and Homeland Security Study in the States – F-1 Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

What is OPT?

Optional Practical Training (OPT) is another form of temporary employment authorization for F-1 students, allowing them to work in positions directly related to their major area of study. Eligible students can apply for up to 12 months of OPT, which can be utilized either before (pre-completion) or after (post-completion) completing their academic studies. However, pre-completion OPT plus post-completion OPT cannot exceed the total of 12 months (ex. 8 months post-completion in addition to 4 months pre-completion). Unlike CPT, OPT requires authorization from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), and students must receive an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) before commencing employment.

Resources: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement – Practical Training, Homeland Security Study in the States F-1 Optional Practical Training (OPT), and UCIS – Optional Practical Training (OPT) for F-1 Students.

What are STEM programs?

STEM programs refer to academic disciplines in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) designates certain degree programs in these fields as eligible for an extension of post-completion OPT. Specifically, F-1 students who have completed degrees in approved STEM fields may qualify for a 24-month

extension of their post-completion OPT, known as the STEM OPT extension. This extension allows for a total of up to 36 months of OPT for eligible STEM graduates.

Resources: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement – Practical Training and Homeland Security Study in the States – STEM OPT Extension Overview

What are the STEM programs available for Undergraduate Applicants at Carson-Newman?

- Biochemistry
- Biology
- Business Analytics
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Mathematics

What are the STEM programs available for Graduate Applicants at Carson-Newman?

Carson-Newman does not currently offer any STEM-related graduate programs.

RESOURCES

What are some good resources for international students who want to study in the U.S.?

- ***Education USA:***

  Education USA is a U.S. Department of State network of over 430 international student advising centers in more than 175 countries and territories. The network promotes U.S. higher education to students around the world by offering accurate, comprehensive, and current information about opportunities to study at accredited postsecondary institutions in the United States. Education USA is your official source on U.S. higher education.

- ***Study in the States:***

  Study in the States offers free government resources that explain the rules and regulations governing the nonimmigrant student process in the United States.