

## SPRING 2022 Questions & Answers for International Students

Contra Costa College (CCC), Diablo Valley College (DVC) and Los Medanos College (LMC) are planning for a hybrid format for spring 2022. That is, courses will be predominantly only online, but there will also be in-person and hybrid (combination of online & in-person instruction) courses.

### Application Deadlines

#### 1. What are the application deadlines at CCC, DVC or LMC?

- CCC: December 1, 2021 (outside the U.S.) / January 15, 2022 (inside the U.S.)
- DVC: December 1, 2021
- LMC: December 1, 2021 (outside the U.S.) / January 15, 2022 (inside the U.S.)

### Admissions Requirements

#### High School Graduation

1. **Will CCC, DVC and LMC accept preliminary IGCSE results for spring 2022 if these tests have been cancelled or postponed?** Yes. CCC, DVC and LMC will accept preliminary IGCSE results for spring 2022 admissions.

#### Financial Support Evidence

1. **Do I need to show financial support evidence to be admitted for spring 2022 even though I will be enrolling in online courses from my home country?** Financial support evidence is not needed for newly admitted students who enroll in online courses from outside of the U.S. for spring 2022. Financial support evidence will be required, however, to issue an I-20 and obtain an F-1 visa for on-campus, in-person instruction for spring 2022. Your college will communicate with you about this process. If you are transferring from a U.S. institution, please contact the international office at your college for guidance about financial support evidence, a transfer I-20 and maintaining F-1 status.

### I-20s and F-1 Visas

1. **Will CCC, DVC and LMC issue I-20s for spring 2022?** Yes.

2. **Can I study online in my home country if I do not want to or am unable to travel to the U.S for spring 2022?** Yes. Students admitted for spring 2022 who are outside of the U.S. have the option of beginning their program of study online from their country of residence. Students intending to do so do *not* need a student visa. Please communicate with the International Student Office at CCC/DVC/LMC about your situation.
  
3. **I have been admitted for spring 2022. Do I need to apply for an F-1 visa for online courses completed outside of the U.S.?** No. You only need to apply for an F-1 visa for studies in the U.S.
  
4. **Do I need to register for a hybrid or in-person course to obtain my F-1 visa?** Yes, according to U.S. immigration regulations, you must register for at least one course with an in-person component to obtain your F-1 visa. Additionally, F-1 international students arriving in the U.S must be enrolled in at least one partially online or fully in-person course for their I-20 to be registered. I-20 registration is required to maintain F-1 immigration status in the U.S.
  
5. **I have already received an initial I-20. Do I need an updated I-20 to arrive for spring 2022?** Your I-20 must have a program start date of 01/24/2022. If your I-20 program start date is different, you will need an updated I-20. Please email your college's international student office to request an updated I-20.
  
6. **I have already paid the SEVIS fee. Do I need to pay the SEVIS fee again if my I-20 program start dates are updated for spring 2022?** No. You will not need to pay the fee again if your I-20 was updated with a new program start date.
  
7. **If I was admitted for fall 2021 and took courses online from my country, yet I am still unable to travel to the U.S. for spring 2022, am I allowed to continue taking courses online and defer my in-person enrollment until fall 2022?** Yes.

### **Deferring Enrollment to Fall 2022**

1. **If I've been admitted and received an I-20 for spring 2022, may I defer to fall 2022?** Yes, an updated I-20 will be issued with a new program start date. Please email your college's international student office to request a *Deferring Enrollment Form* and updated I-20.

2. **If I've been issued an F-1 visa for spring 2022, yet defer to fall 2022, do I need a new visa?** You do not need a new visa if your current visa is valid past the date of your (future) entry into the U.S. Please check the visa expiration date on your visa. However, you will need an updated I-20 with a new program start date. Please email your college's international student office to request an updated I-20.
  
3. **If I was admitted to spring 2022 but would like to defer enrollment to fall 2022, do I need to prepare updated financial support documentation?** If you have already been issued an I-20 for spring 2022 yet have not obtained a visa, it is strongly recommended that you prepare updated financial support documentation for the visa appointment.
  
4. **May I defer enrollment for more than one (1) semester?** Yes, however, you must request a Deferring Enrollment Form and:
  1. Submit a new application for admission.
  2. Pay another application fee.
  3. Provide updated financial support evidence (e.g., bank statement).
  4. Provide updated English language proficiency documentation (if your test score is more than two years old from the start date of your program of study).

## **Travel to the U.S.**

1. **Will I be able to travel to the U.S. for spring 2022?** Travel to the U.S is dependent upon your ability to obtain an F-1 visa. Please [click here](#) to view visa appointment wait times in your country/region. It is also recommended that you confirm this information with your local U.S. Consulate or Embassy.
  
2. **Should I take a printed I-20 in carry-on luggage on flight(s) to the U.S.?** Yes.
  
3. **Are there any special entry requirements to the U.S.?**

Yes, please note that CCC, DVC, and LMC require all students taking in-person classes to be vaccinated. The information listed below is for U.S travel and entry purposes only.

Effective December 6, 2021 all travelers to the U.S. by air must show (to the airline) a negative result of a COVID-19 viral test taken within one (1) day of departure or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 in the past 90 days before boarding a flight to the U.S."

Vaccines approved by the FDA and those that have an [Emergency Use Listing from the World Health Organization](#) will be accepted. Official information can be found at the [U.S. Department of State](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) websites. It is also recommended that you contact your nearest U.S. Consulate or Embassy as well as the airline you will be flying.

Effective January 1 2022, foreign national travelers entering the U.S. through a land border land or ferry terminal must be fully vaccinated and provide proof of vaccination. For more information about entering the U.S. by land or ferry, please visit this [site](#).

There are limited exceptions to the vaccination requirement. Those under 18 are exempt from vaccination requirements. As well, and as determined by the CDC, there are exceptions for students travelling from countries with limited vaccine availability. Information can be found [here](#). Students from these countries must “show an official U.S. Government letter (paper or digital) documenting approval of the exception.” Students who receive exemptions will be required to get vaccinated in the U.S.

### **College Requirements: Covid-19 & Health Insurance**

- 1. Are vaccinations required to study at CCC, DVC and LMC?** Yes, effective November 1, 2021, our colleges require COVID-19 vaccinations for all students taking in-person classes or who need to visit any campus facility. Click [here](#) for more information.
- 2. How do I show proof of vaccination to study at CCC, DVC and LMC?** Select your vaccine from the drop-down menu and upload your proof of vaccination at this site: <https://www.4cd.edu/covid19/vaccine-requirement.html>. Accepted vaccine documentation is listed on the site. Students must use their InSite email address ([name@insite.4cd.edu](mailto:name@insite.4cd.edu)). Students will receive a notification within 3 days at their InSite email address. Students can confirm their InSite email address in the “Settings” tile in their InSite portal.
- 3. If I am already in the U.S. and have not yet been vaccinated, where can I get vaccinated near CCC, DVC and LMC and how much will it cost?** There is no cost!
  - The nearest option to CCC is the Walgreen’s Pharmacy at 14280 San Pablo Avenue. Students can schedule an appointment online [here](#).
  - The nearest option to DVC is Safeway Pharmacy at 707 Contra Costa Boulevard. It is recommended that students [schedule an appointment online](#). More information can be found [here](#).

- The nearest option to LMC is the Walmart Pharmacy at 2203 Loveridge Rd. Students can schedule an appointment online [here](#). Students can also visit <https://www.losmedanos.edu/safety/tips.aspx#notice> for updates.
- 4. Are there any additional Covid-19 requirements?** Yes, everyone must show proof of full COVID-19 vaccination, or a negative test result, before going to indoor businesses such as restaurants, bars and gyms in [Contra Costa County](#) and in the San Francisco Bay Area. This also includes campus food services areas, as well as any indoor gym activities or classes.
  - 5. Is health insurance mandatory for international students?** If you are inside the United States, health insurance is mandatory for all F-1 students.
  - 6. If I stay in my home country, do I need to pay for health insurance?** No.
  - 7. How much is health insurance?** The cost of health insurance is \$889 for the Spring 2022 semester. Students must pay this before classes begin in January 2022.
  - 8. If I arrive in the U.S. for spring 2022, when will my health insurance coverage begin?** Health insurance coverage for international students begins January 3 and ends August 9, 2022.
  - 9. Does the mandatory health insurance cover covid-19 vaccinations?** No, however, the vaccinations do not cost anything. Students need to show a photo I.D. and proof of international student health insurance to schedule a vaccine appointment.
  - 10. Is there any safety information I should be aware of before reporting to campus?** Yes, please review the [Student Safety Checklist](#) for our colleges.

### **Accommodation/Housing**

- 1. Will accommodation be easy to find in January?** No, accommodation is extremely limited. Students are encouraged to secure housing as soon as possible.


2. **Is there any Covid-19 related requirement for Diablo Valley Homestay?** Yes, all homestay students must be vaccinated and send [Diablo Valley Homestay](#) by email ([info@diablovalleyhomestay.com](mailto:info@diablovalleyhomestay.com)) a copy of their proof of vaccination. Note that the placement fee is \$450 and the monthly homestay rate is \$1,100.

## Courses and Support

1. **Will online courses be asynchronous (time zone does not matter)?** Mostly, though each course section will have its own schedule. Students should carefully check the scheduling notes for each course section to determine if a given section of a course includes synchronous instruction. Here is a [link](#) to the course schedule search (searchable by college and semester).
2. **How will students know which online courses have set class meetings when looking at course descriptions?**
  - Asynchronous courses (no set class meetings) will have “ONLINE” included in the meeting days/times column, and **no days or times will be listed**. Also, the comments section will not include references to any required orientations or synchronous class sessions.
  - Synchronous courses (online courses that have set class meetings on specific days using Zoom software and on California/Pacific Standard Time) will list the days and times of instruction OR there will be specific synchronous meeting sessions listed in the comments section.

International students at **Contra Costa College** who are not able to come to the U.S. for spring 2022 should **not** enroll in courses with the following comment: *“This class is currently scheduled to meet partially or fully on campus. The mode of delivery may change, however, based on social distancing guidelines. For scheduling purposes, if you register for this section, please plan on being available at the days and times listed. Your instructor will contact you prior to the course.”*

3. **What are operating system requirements for taking online courses?** Students can use any operating system (PC, Mac, Android, iOS) for taking online courses.
4. **What are other technical requirements for taking online courses?** It is recommended that students have access to a desktop or laptop with audio and video capability and reliable Internet access. Students may use mobile phones, though they will be expected to do extensive typing.

- 5. What video software will online courses use?** All courses will use [Zoom](#). Students should contact course instructors to ask if any social media such as YouTube will be used that may not be accessible in their regions.
- 6. How will students access online courses?** All online courses will be delivered through the online management system. Below are helpful online learning links for students at each college:
- [CCC](#)
  - [DVC](#)
  - [LMC](#)
- 7. Do online courses have the same units (credits) as in-person courses?** Yes.
- 8. Are the units for online courses accepted by 4-year universities and colleges?** Yes.
- 9. Do I need to purchase textbooks for online courses?** Yes, most online courses require the purchase of textbooks. Textbooks can be purchased online from the college's bookstore or through other vendors such as Amazon, etc. Some courses require the purchase of an online 'course pack,' which includes access to reading, exercises and quiz materials. Students can purchase online textbooks or course packs using a credit card. However, many courses use open online resources and do not require purchase of course materials. Those courses are designated as Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) and can be identified with this logo:  Below are links to the bookstore at each college:
- [CCC Bookstore](#)
  - [DVC Book Center](#)
  - [LMC Bookstore](#)
- 10. How do I get counseling help to complete my student education plan?** Students can book appointments online. Online drop-in counselling may also be available, depending on your college. Please visit your college's Counseling Center website for details.
- 11. How do I register for online courses?** Registration can be done online through [InSite](#) from your home country. Priority registration dates and times are listed in [InSite](#) under the Registration menu. Students may register for courses until midnight on the first day of classes: January 24, 2022.

**12. Am I required to enroll in a full course of study (12 units) if I am outside the U.S.?** The answer depends on your I-20 status as follows:

- **Continuing students** with an active I-20: Yes. To maintain your F-1 immigration status, you are required to take 12 units.
- **Students outside the U.S with an initial I-20:** No. You are not required to maintain 12 units if you plan to study outside the U.S for spring 2022.

We strongly encourage full-time enrollment due to the temporary provisions of U.S. immigration policy guidance during COVID-19. For additional questions, please contact the international student office at your college.

**13. What is the cost of online courses?** \$346 per unit.

**14. By when do I have to pay the tuition for online courses?** Students should pay the tuition for their online courses as soon as possible. However, if they need to pay in installments or wait to pay, they will not be charged late payment fees. Students should note that, if they have a balance on their account, a registration hold will be placed on their account. This hold will block them from being able to register for the following semester. Once the tuition has been paid, this hold will be automatically removed from their account.

**15. Will I be allowed to attend the first few classes/sessions of online courses before deciding whether to continue in or drop a course?** Yes, you may try online courses for several classes. You are allowed to drop an online course at no charge. The deadline to drop a full-term course is Friday, February 4 for the Spring 2022 Semester.

**16. Will students be able to receive online tutoring?** Yes, free online tutoring is available to all students through any Canvas course.

**17. How much time per week can students expect to spend for an online course?**  
Expect to spend 6 to 9 hours per week (on and offline) for a 3-unit course.

**18. What other online learning expectations should students be aware of?** Students should be prepared to actively participate in online courses through frequent interactions with instructors and classmates. This includes contributing to online discussions. Students should review course syllabi for more information about grading policies.

## **Orientation**



- 1. Will CCC, DVC and LMC offer an online orientation for spring 2022?** Yes.
  - CCC's in-person Orientation is January 11, 2022
  - LMC's hybrid Orientation is January 19, 2022
  - DVC's Zoom Orientation is January 20, 2022 at 5:00 pm. In addition, students arriving in the U.S will be required to check-in in person at the International Student Office on either January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 or January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Students have been assigned a specific day and time to check-in. Please contact [iso@dvc.edu](mailto:iso@dvc.edu) for more information.
- 2. If I have already attended a new student orientation, do I need to attend another one if I arrive in the U.S. for spring 2022?** Yes, students at all colleges who are arriving in the U.S. will be required to attend orientation.

## Student Life

- 1. May I join a student club if I spend my first semester studying online from my home country?** Yes, you may still join a student club(s) as some have online meetings. The colleges have a variety of clubs that have been active in the remote learning environment. Please inquire with the club(s) you are interested in for more information. Below are links to Student Life at each college:
  - [CCC](#)
  - [DVC](#)
  - [LMC](#)