



## English Proficiency

Wayland does not offer ESOL classes or an intensive English program for those wishing to strengthen their English speaking and writing skills.

If English is not the native language of your country, you must provide English proficiency scores to Wayland to be considered for admission to the university. To be considered official, the test scores must come to Wayland from the test agency, not from you. Most English proficiency scores are valid for 2 years only; if your scores are older than that, you must take another exam.

Below is a list of English proficiency tests that are approved by Wayland.

Duolingo <https://www.duolingo.com/englishtest>

The minimum score for Admission consideration is 100.

TOEFL iBT <https://www.ets.org/toefl/test-takers/ibt/test-day/at-home-test->

<https://www.wbu.edu/admissions/financial-aid/scholarships/academic.htm>

#### After Acceptance to the University

After you are admitted to the university, Wayland's DSO will email an I-20 document to you along with additional instructions to get your visa from a U.S. embassy. The I-20 proves that you have been admitted to a U.S. school; you must have one to apply for an F-1 visa.

During the process of getting a visa appointment at the embassy, you can expect to pay a SEVP (Student Exchange Visitor Program) fee of \$350 and a visa application fee of \$160.

First-time F-1 students may not enter the country initially more than 30 days from the first day of class.

### Maintaining Your F-1 (Student) Status

Because you have qualified to study in the U.S., it's critical that you obey immigration rules relevant to your type of visa so you can continue to stay in the U.S. to complete your education. Failure to do so will put you out of immigration status. At that point, you will have only 2 options – go home immediately or request reinstatement through USCIS. The application for reinstatement is costly and generally takes a year to be processed; it can be approved or denied depending on why you lost your status. Please follow the guidelines below for maintaining your F-1 status.

#### Maintain a Passing GPA and a Good Behavioral Record

If you fail all of your classes for a semester, you could be suspended from the university. That will put you out of immigration status. You must maintain at least a 2.0 GPA. If you are suspended because of behavioral problems or violation of school policies, you will be out of status.

#### Enroll in Classes for Each Semester as a Fulltime Student

This means that Undergraduates, those seeking a Bachelors' Degree, must enroll in at least 12 credit hours of class per term semester. And 9 of those hours must be in face-to-face settings. The remaining 3 hours may be in online settings. If you drop below the 12 hours of class per week, you are out of status. If you take fewer than 9 hours of face-to-face classes, you are out of status.

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#### For Spiritual Needs

Any faculty or staff will be happy to speak and pray with you. Should you want to speak with the Director of Spiritual Life, please see Donnie Brown whose office is located in the Brown Family Conference Center across from Jimmy Dean Dorm.

#### For Health Problems

Please see our Director of Health Services for any health issues. The office is located on the second floor of the University Center – above the Cafeteria. Remember, you have a health insurance policy so if you need to see a doctor, your out-of-pocket costs will be reduced.

#### For Mental/Emotional Concerns

Our counseling office is located next to the Health Services Office. Again, there is no direct cost to you because the services are covered by fees that you have paid. These are confidential visits; please do not hesitate to get the help you need.

#### For Disciplinary or Harassment Issues

Should you need to speak with an official regarding disciplinary or harassment issues, please see Wayland's Dean of Students on the second floor of the University Center. These records are confidential; do not hesitate to seek help. If you need immediate police help, call 911.

#### For Housing Issues

Please visit the Housing Office on the second floor of the University Center.

#### Work Only on Campus

F-1 students may work only on campus for up to 20 hours weekly. Exceptions to that rule are for students participating in CPT and OPT; see the DSO about these options. Students must have a Social Security card before they can begin work. The DSO can assist with that process. If you work, you must file a U.S. tax return for each year of work in the U.S. You should plan to use a tax-preparation source external to Wayland.

#### Pay Your Wayland Bills

Please check with Wayland's Business Office regarding the payment of your bill. You must have cleared the balance for your current term before you are allowed to enroll in the next term. The Business Office is on the first floor of Gates Hall.

#### Inform the DSO of Changes, Immigration Issues, or Transfer Plans

The Student Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) is the U.S. government's web-based system for tracking and managing your non-immigrant status while in the U.S. Inform the DSO immediately of any changes in address, d

### Know Your End Date and Email Any Extension Requests

Stay aware of your Program End Date; it is noted on the first page of your I-20. The End Date is the date by which you should complete your degree at Wayland. You are required to leave the country 60 days after your End Date unless you are participating in OPT, re-enrolling in a university, or changing your visa type.

Consult with your academic advisors regularly to stay current about your academic requirements and graduation date. Should you need additional time to complete your degree, past the end date, you must speak to the DSO **at least a semester** before you plan to finish your degree. If approved by the DSO, email the DSO your formal request with the finish date.

### Check Your I-20 Before You Travel

The DSO signature on the second page of your I-20 should not be over a year old when you return through the Port of Entry. See the DSO if you need another signature before you leave for a holiday or summer break.