



Spring 2021 Questions & Answers

Updated November 12, 2020

Application Deadlines

1. Are there any changes to the application deadlines? [DVC has extended the application deadline until December 1. The deadlines for CCC and LMC remain the same.](#)

Admissions Requirements

English Language Proficiency

1. Where can I take an English test if testing centers are closed in my country? [The following tests can be taken from home in your country:](#)

- [TOEFL iBT Home Edition](#)
- [IELTS Indicator](#)
- [iTEP](#)
- [Duolingo English Test](#)

2. Does Contra Costa College (CCC)/Diablo Valley College (DVC)/Los Medanos College (LMC) accept the TOEFL iBT Home Edition and IELTS Indicator tests for Spring 2021? [Yes.](#)

Financial Support Evidence

1. Do I need to show financial support evidence in order to be admitted for Spring 2021 even though I will be enrolling in online courses from my home country? [Financial support evidence is not needed for new students who enroll in online courses from outside of the U.S. for Spring 2021. Financial support evidence will be required, however, in order to be issued an I-20 and obtain an F-1 visa for on-campus, in-person instruction for Fall 2021. CCC/DVC/LMC 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/LMC issue I-20s for Spring 2021? [Yes.](#)

2. When will I-20s be issued for Spring 2021?

- [CCC began issuing I-20s in mid-July for Spring 2021.](#)
- [DVC began issuing I-20s in early August for Spring 2021.](#)
- [LMC began issuing I-20s in October for Spring 2021.](#)

3. Will CCC/DVC/LMC issue I-20s even if students are unable to apply for F-1 visas now? [Yes. I-20s will be updated as necessary \(program of study start date and completion date\).](#)

Colleges of Contra Costa

CONTRA COSTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT



4. Will CCC/DVC/LMC email a digital copy of the I-20 first, and then mail the original? [All I-20s will be emailed. Original I-20s will only be mailed upon request.](#)
5. I have been admitted for Spring 2021. 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.](#)
6. What if I can't get a visa before the start of the Spring 2021 semester? [Students admitted for Spring 2021 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.](#)
7. If I've already received an I-20 for Spring 2021, may I defer to Fall 2021? [Yes, an updated I-20 will be issued with a new program start date.](#)
8. If I defer to Fall 2021, do I need to pay the SEVIS fee again? [No.](#)
9. If I defer to Fall 2021, do I need to prepare updated financial support documentation? [If you have already been issued an I-20 for Spring 2021 yet have not obtained a visa, it is strongly recommended that you prepare updated financial support documentation for the visa appointment.](#)
10. If I've been issued an F-1 visa for Spring 2021, do I need a new visa if I defer to Fall 2021? [You do not need a new visa if your current visa is valid past the date of entry into the U.S. Please check the visa expiration date on your visa.](#)

Travel to the U.S.

1. Should students take a copy of their printed I-20 with them in carry-on luggage on flight(s) to the U.S.? [Yes.](#)
2. Are students required to self-quarantine for 14 days when entering the U.S.? [This depends on U.S. immigration regulations in effect at that time. As of November 5, the answer is yes.](#)
3. Where have other students self-quarantined? [Students have stayed at either a local hotel or rented rooms through Airbnb for their quarantines. The need to do so depends on U.S. immigration regulations in effect at that time.](#)

Online Instruction and Support

1. What if I am unable to register for a hybrid course after arriving in the U.S.? [The answer is specific to each student. Students should contact the international student office at their college.](#)
2. What if I decide to drop the hybrid course? Will this affect my F-1 status? [It will affect the student's F-1 status if the student drops below 12 units.](#)



3. What resources are available to help students search for hybrid classes?
 - CCC provides a list of hybrid classes on the [InSite](#) course schedule. CCC also provides a weekly open class list starting in January.
 - DVC can provide a list of hybrid classes and students can use the InSite Course Schedule Search feature to view hybrid classes.
 - LMC provides open class list beginning January up to the day before classes begin.
4. Where can I view online and hybrid (combination of online and in-person) courses offered?
 - Course schedules will be available online later in November.
 - Here is the [link](#) to view course schedules by colleges. Students should select “Partially Online” under “Course Type” to view hybrid courses.
5. What is the difference between an asynchronous and synchronous class?
 - **Asynchronous:** There is not a specific time and day the course meets. In this case, the time zone in which a student is taking the course does not matter.
 - **Synchronous:** The course has a specific meeting time and day. Classes are offered in pacific time zone. Daylight Savings Time will take effect on Sunday, March 14th.
6. Will online classes be asynchronous? Mostly, though each class will have its own schedule. Students should carefully check the scheduling notes of each section to determine if a given class schedule includes synchronous instruction.
7. How will students know which courses are asynchronous when looking at course descriptions?
 - **Asynchronous** courses will have “ONLINE” included in the meeting days/times column of the schedule. No days or times will be listed. The comments section will not include references to any required orientations or synchronous class sessions.
 - **Synchronous** courses will list the days and times of instruction OR there will be specific synchronous meeting sessions listed in the comments section of the course schedule. All courses times are given in Pacific Standard Time.
 - International students at **Contra Costa College** and **Los Medanos College** should **not** enroll in classes 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.”
8. What are operating system requirements for taking online courses? Students can use any operating system (PC, Mac, Android, iOS) for taking online courses.
9. 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.
10. What video software will online courses use? All courses will use [Zoom](#) software. Students should contact course instructors to ask if any social media such as YouTube will be used that may be blocked (not accessible) in their region.



11. How will students access online courses? All online courses will be on Canvas. Here are helpful Canvas and online learning links for CCC, DVC and LMC students:
- CCC: <https://www.contracosta.edu/classes/online-classes/>
 - DVC: <https://www.dvc.edu/current/canvas-faq.html>
 - LMC: <https://www.losmedanos.edu/onlineclasses/index.aspx>
12. Do online courses have the same units/credits as in person classes? Yes.
13. Are the units for online classes accepted by 4-year universities? Yes.
14. Do students need to purchase textbooks for online courses? Yes, most online courses require the purchase of e-textbooks. E-textbooks can be purchased online from the college's bookstore or through another provider. 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 ZTC – Zero Textbook Cost.
15. How do I get counseling help to complete my student education plan? Students can book appointments online. Online drop-in counselling is also available. Please visit your college's Counseling Center website for details.
16. How do I register for online classes? 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 classes until midnight of the day before the class start.
17. Am I required to enroll in a full course of study (12 units) if I am outside of the U.S.? Students who have an active I-20 must enroll in a full course of study in order to maintain F-1 status (12 units). Students admitted for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 who do not have an active I-20 do not need to enroll in a full course of study if they continue to study online in their home county. Even so, 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.
18. What is the cost of online courses? \$346 per unit.
19. By when do I have to pay the tuition for online courses? Students should pay the tuition for their online classes 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 term. Once the tuition has been paid, this hold will be automatically removed from their account.
20. Will students be allowed to attend the first few sessions of online courses before deciding whether to continue in or drop a course? Yes, students may try online classes for several sessions. Students are allowed to drop an online course at no charge. The deadline to drop a course is February 5 for full-term classes in the Spring 2021 semester.



21. Will students be able to receive online tutoring? **Yes, free online tutoring is available to all students through any Canvas course.**
22. How much time per week can students expect to spend for each online course? **Students can expect to spend 6 to 9 hours per week (on and offline) per every 3-unit course.**
23. 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.**

Orientation

1. Will CCC/DVC/LMC offer an online orientation to replace the in-person orientation for Spring 2021? **Yes. We will update students (admitted for Spring 2021) when orientation details are confirmed.**

Health Insurance

1. Are students required to purchase international student health insurance for Spring 2021 if they remain outside of the U.S. until the Fall 2021 semester? **No.**