

# **BETHANY GLOBAL UNIVERSITY**

## **SPECIAL INFORMATION FOR CANADIANS**

### **During the Application Process:**

- Canadians **DO NOT** need to take the ACT or SAT college entrance exams.

### **After Acceptance:**

- Upon acceptance, Canadian students are immediately entered into the U.S. government computer tracking system, called SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information Service). The SEVIS system generates an I-20 form, needed for the student visa. BCOM will send your I-20 form to you in the mail once you have submitted Proof of Financial Support letters/documents that total the amount due to pay for one year of studies.
- Take a copy of all Proof of Financial Support letters/documents as you will need to bring them with you when you cross the border into the US the first time.
- The I-20 form **needs to be signed by you** and kept with your passport. **DO NOT ALTER THE FORM IN ANY OTHER WAY** (laminating, writing on it, etc)
- The I-20 form will serve as a record of your visa and status as a student. **No visit to the consulate is necessary for Canadian students to study in the States.**
- **Very important – Canadian students must pay an I-901 SEVIS fee directly to the U.S. government prior to arrival at the POE (Point of Entry).** You must show a receipt that the fee has been paid when crossing the border. Details for payment of the SEVIS I-901 fee will be included with your I-20 form.

### **Upon Entry into the States:**

- When arriving at the POE to the States, Canadian students need to have the following items with them:
  1. their I-20 form
  2. their SEVIS I-901 fee receipt
  3. their acceptance letter from the college
  4. a passport or other photo i.d.
  5. copies of your Proof of Financial Supporter letters/documentation
  6. Print off a statement from Populi showing the financial aid awarded and any payments you have already made. Remember that your statement shows only what has been invoiced for one semester at a time. This may need to be explained to the border official.
- Not all POEs are open 24 hours per day for processing students, so students should be aware of the hours at the crossing they intend to go through and plan accordingly.
- Upon going through the border crossing, students will receive an admissions number and an I-94 arrival/departure note will be made in their US Government SEVIS record online. Students receive a link to the I-94

information, which can be accessed online through the duration of enrollment.

**During/After Enrollment:**

- It is recommended that the student take copies of his/her signed I-20 form, passport, SEVIS fee receipt and I-94 record from online. We strongly recommend that you give an additional set of copies to your emergency contact person as well.
- Canadians are required to attend any orientation sessions for international students in order to receive information on the handling of US Government documents and other issues pertinent to their enrollment in a U.S. university.
- The signed I-20 form and passport must accompany the student whenever crossing any U.S. border. You will be able to leave the country without them, but will not be permitted back in.
- If there are any changes in your enrollment while you are student (for instance, a change of degree), you must get a new I-20 form from a DSO.
- When a student travels outside of the U.S. they must have a current Designated School Official signature on page 3 of the I-20 form. This must be renewed each year. Without a DSO signature, the student may not be permitted to re-enter the country, so this is extremely important at breaks and vacation times.
- The Canadian student will not initially be able to work for pay while enrolled. There is very limited paid work available on campus (only a few possible positions for sophomores), and international students are restricted from working off campus without a work permit. After the student has been enrolled for 9 months he or she may apply for a work permit. It costs several hundred dollars to apply, takes 2 – 3 months to process and is valid for one year at a time.