



Arriving Late to Commerce

While the ISSO understands that circumstances may prevent a new international student from arriving in a timely manner to Commerce to begin their studies. However, due to the possible risks with arriving late (see below) the ISSO does not grant permission for students to arrive late. If a student chooses to arrive late to Commerce then they will need to be aware of the possible risks so they can make an informed decision about their arrival and studies at A&M-Commerce.

New international students who arrive late will be required to check-in with an international student advisor in person in the ISSO in the Halladay Student Services building room 104 before they may register for classes. During the check-in we will discuss the orientation requirement. The ISSO does not make any exceptions for the check-in requirement for international students.

Please keep in mind students who arrive after the final international student orientation before the beginning of the semester or after their program start date on line 5 of the I-20 may face the following difficulties:

- Our office has discussed international students arriving later than their program start date on line 5 of the I-20 with the port of entry in Dallas and Customs and Border Protection which is a division of immigration that supervises the port of entries. **Port of entry has stated that there is no guarantee a student will be allowed to enter the U.S. after their program start date on line 5 of their I-20.** Also, if a student arrives over the weekend then the port of entry has indicated that they may “detain” a student until the next business day so they can confirm the student’s status with immigration.
- All late arriving international students will be required to check-in with an international student advisor in person at the ISSO in Halladay 104 before the ISSO registration hold will be lifted. There are no exceptions for the check-in requirement.
- After the 4th day of class (fall/spring), any student trying to register for classes is required to have written permission from the dean of their college and the instructor of all courses they will enroll in. **Some professors and or the dean MAY NOT be willing to grant permission to any student who arrives after the 4th day of class (fall/spring) to register for courses.** If this occurs and students are not able to register for classes then they will be in immediate violation of their visa status which will jeopardize their ability to remain in the U.S.
- The later a student arrives the less likely there will be classes available within their specific academic program. Immigration requires international students to enroll in a minimum number of classes each fall and spring semester and the only classes within your degree plan/program will count toward this requirement. If students are unable to enroll in the minimum number of classes as required by immigration then they will be in immediate violation of their visa status which will jeopardize their ability to remain in the U.S.

Students who are not able to arrive in the U.S. by the program start date on line 5 of their I-20 will need to defer their admission. To defer your admission please see below:

- Undergraduate will need to send an email notice requesting their admission be deferred along with an updated [bank and sponsor statement](#) to Pamela.Wright@tamuc.edu (do not submit to the ISSO).
- Graduate students will need to complete the [Deferral Request](#) form and submit this form along with an updated [bank and sponsor statement](#) to the Graduate School (do not submit to the ISSO).