



Arriving Late to Commerce

The Office of International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) does not grant permission for international students to arrive late for their first semester at A&M-Commerce regardless of the situation. This handout will provide guidance and the potential risks with arriving late. ***Students who are unable to arrive in Commerce by the first day of the semester will need to defer their admission to the next available semester.*** To defer your admission you may email New.Intl@tamuc.edu.

We strongly recommend that F-1 and J-1 international students plan their travel itinerary to ensure arrival in Commerce in a timely manner to allow time to take care of their responsibilities with the ISSS:

- All new F-1 and J-1 international students will have a course registration hold from the ISSS that will not be lifted until the student has completed check-in in person at the ISSS. ***There are no exceptions to the check-in requirement.*** For check-in information go to www.tamuc.edu/intlorientation.
- All new F-1 and J-1 international students are also required to attend the mandatory International Student Orientation the Wednesday before the start of the fall and spring semesters. For more information go to www.tamuc.edu/intlorientation.

If you chose to arrive late then please be sure to review the following guidance:

- Our office has discussed international students arriving later than the program start date for the I-20 or DS-2019 with the port of entry in Dallas and Customs and Border Protection which is a division of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security 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 of their I-20 or DS-2019 after the beginning of the semester.***
- All new international students are required to check-in with an International Student Advisor in person and provide the required documents and information before being eligible to register for classes. ***Students arriving late will be seriously delayed in being eligible to register for classes.***
- 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.
- Classes fill up very quickly and students arriving late may experience difficulties finding enough available courses to meet the Student Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) enrollment requirements for the F and J visa. Students who fail to enroll in a full course of study or meet one of the limited exceptions allowed by SEVP may be in violation of their visa status. This will jeopardize the student's ability to remain in the U.S. and study at a U.S. college or university. For more information on the enrollment requirements go to www.tamuc.edu/guidebook.

If you chose to arrive late for the start of your studies at A&M-Commerce then you will need to report to the ISSS during our check-in as soon as possible. For a schedule of check-in and welcome session go to www.tamuc.edu/intlorientation.