

Golf Academy of America International Student Handbook

*California * Arizona * Florida * South Carolina*

PROGRAM INFORMATION

The enclosed information has been compiled to help you apply to the Golf Academy of America, and to prepare you for relocation to the campus of your choice.

Golf Academy of America is the first and foremost accredited college of its kind in the United States. Founded as San Diego Golf Academy in 1974, Golf Academy of America has developed a worldwide network of thousands of graduates in over 30 years of operation. The Golf Academy offers a Business Degree program:

PROGRAM 1 - BUSINESS DEGREE

MAJOR:	Golf Complex Operations and Management
EMPHASIS:	Golf Professional, Golf Management
LENGTH:	Two academic years (16 consecutive months)
AWARD:	Associate Degree

For students who are interested in acquiring an education in golf business management, the Golf Academy offers an Associate of Applied Business Degree Program (California, Arizona, and South Carolina)/Occupational Associate Degree Program (Florida). This is an accredited four semester program that extends students the opportunity to graduate with the emphasis of Golf Professional and/or General Management. The Business Degree Program is offered at Golf Academy campuses in California, Florida, Arizona, and South Carolina.

At all campuses, weekly golf tournaments and additional golf rounds take place at a variety of courses. The Golf Academy training program includes group golf lessons, both at the driving range and at local golf courses, individual video lessons, both at the driving range and at local golf courses, tournament planning, instruction in the rules and etiquette of golf, club fitting, club repair, and methods of teaching. The training and evaluation of students' golf techniques are made by PGA and LPGA teaching professionals.

In this handbook you will find detailed information about Immigration regulations and associated Golf Academy procedures. The Golf Academy is looking forward to assisting you in reaching your goals, whether they involve business management, or an overall understanding of the game of golf.

Applicants to this program must qualify with a 500 TOEFL score, or a minimum 2.0 GPA from a U.S. college or university.

GOLF ACADEMY OF AMERICA APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

ALL APPLICANTS

- ❖ Complete and submit “Golf Academy of America Enrollment Application”

Submit supporting documentation to complete the admissions process:

- ❖ Official high school transcript (SC and FL campus applicants), attestation, or GED results
- ❖ Official college transcript(s), if applicable
- ❖ \$50 non-refundable processing fee (U.S. and Canada), or
- ❖ \$500 non-refundable processing fee (International, outside North America)

NON-U.S. RESIDENTS ONLY

- ❖ Completed Golf Academy of America I-20 application (for M-1 Visa)
- ❖ Certification of financial support
- ❖ Proof of **500** TOEFL score

SEVIS FEE/SEVP FORM I-901 INFORMATION

A Student Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) fee and completed Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) Form I-901 are required of all foreign nationals who come to the United States for the purpose of pursuing a full course of study in institutions such as colleges and universities. SEVIS fee payments will be used by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to fund the SEVP. This program makes it possible for international students and exchange visitors to attend schools in the United States. The fee also funds SEVIS, a computer system used to track international students and exchange visitors during their stays in the United States.

In order to complete the required form I-901 and pay your SEVIS fee, you will need to have been issued your form I-20M-N by the Golf Academy. This form is issued to international students once all required admission documents have been submitted and the application for admission has been accepted. On this form you will find the campus school code and the individual SEVIS identification number that has been assigned to you. You will need both of these numbers in order to complete the form I-901.

The SEVIS fee is US \$200.00. The fee must be paid by using one of the following methods:

- A) **Internet** – Electronically, the fee can be paid by completing a form I-901 for M nonimmigrants, through the Internet using a Visa, MasterCard or American Express credit card. Using this method, you will be able to print out your payment receipt immediately. To complete your form, pay your fee electronically and print out your payment receipt, you will need to go to the SEVIS webpage at www.ice.gov/sevis/i901.
- B) **Mail** – You may also pay the fee through the mail by submitting the completed form I-901 to SEVP along with a check or money order drawn on a U.S. bank and payable in U.S. currency. Cash payments or traveler's checks will not be accepted by SEVP. If a cash payment or traveler's check is received by SEVP, it will be returned to the sender. The form I-901 can be printed from the SEVIS webpage at www.ice.gov/sevis/i901. If paying the fee by mail, you will need to send your completed application and payment to:

I-901 Student/Exchange Visitor Processing Fee
P.O. Box 970020
St. Louis, MO 63197-0020
United States

If forwarding the completed form and payment via courier (to expedite delivery to SEVP), you will mail to:

I-901 Student/Exchange Visitor Processing Fee
1005 Convention Plaza
St. Louis, MO 63101
United States

- C) **Western Union’s “Quick Pay” service** – A third option available to students for paying the SEVIS fee is to use Western Union’s “Quick Pay” service. The receipt provided to you by Western Union will serve as immediate proof of payment. If using this option, you must provide, to the Western Union Agent, printed copies of the instructions and completed Western Union form sample, found on the SEVIS website at www.ice.gov/sevis/i901 in order to insure that your payment is correctly processed.

In order to be issued your M-1 Student Visa, you must have previously paid the US \$200.00 SEVIS fee. While in many cases, the embassy, consulate or point of entry may be able to verify the payment of your fee, it is highly recommended by SEVP that you retain your fee payment receipt and submit it to the officials at your visa interview. Canadian students will need to present proof of payment at the point of entry into the United States. Canadian students will not be able to pay the fee at the time of entry. The fee must have previously been paid via the Internet or the mail and a fee payment receipt received.

Questions regarding this process can be directed to campus officials. You may also call the I-901 Customer Service Hotline at 1-212-620-3418.

IMMIGRATION INFORMATION

AS A STUDENT ON THE M-1 STUDENT VISA IN THE UNITED STATES, YOU ARE UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) AND THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES (USCIS). VIOLATION OF U.S. LAW WILL RESULT IN REVOCATION OF YOUR STUDENT VISA AND POSSIBLE DEPORTATION.

It is your responsibility to:

- * Maintain your student visa
- * Not let your passport expire
- * Not let your I-20 expire
- * Apply for and receive USCIS approval for "extension of stay" well in advance of expiration of M-1 Student Visa per I-20 and/or I-94 if you are to continue/remain in school
- * Notify Golf Academy of America of any and all address/changes of local residence within 10 days and notify USCIS directly via form AR-11
- * Not accept employment without prior USCIS approval
(An M-1 student may not accept employment or engage in business, except for practical training after graduation, and then only after securing USCIS approval.)

As a full-time student on an M-1 visa you must:

- * Start classes no later than the date indicated on the I-20
- * Adhere to the attendance policy
- * Carry proof of student status at all times
- * **HAVE A DESIGNATED SCHOOL OFFICIAL SIGN THE I-20 EVERY TIME YOU LEAVE THE U.S.**
- * Be a full time student (12 credits/semester)

A full-time student on an M-1 visa cannot change to F-1 student status in the United States, but must exit the country and re-enter on an F-1 visa.

If you accrue excessive absences from academic classes, you will be considered "out-of-status" and reported to USCIS. Out-of-status means you are no longer a student, and you must then return home.

Remember...Your most important documents are your passport, I-20, and I-94. Be sure to carry your documents with you at all times.