



PRINCIPIA COLLEGE

## 2020 PDF Guide to International Admissions & Financial Aid

International Admissions  
Principia College  
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*To learn about the lives and experiences  
of students at Principia College,  
please see our website:*

*[www.principiacollege.edu/international](http://www.principiacollege.edu/international)*

## Admissions Deadlines

If you're currently living outside of the United States:

- To begin classes in August (main intake): Applications are due **January 15**.
- To begin classes in January (secondary intake): Applications are due **October 1**.

## Community Expectations

Principia's primary purpose is to serve the Cause of Christian Science. Everyone strives to be a good neighbor by exploring and expressing the values of Jesus and the Christian Science religion while enjoying university life.

Therefore, students who enroll at Principia must be interested in growing morally and spiritually by joining an educational community that models and encourages viewing and living life through the lens of Christian Science. Students and their families must be receptive to the principles and values of Christian Science, respect Christian Science healing, and express a genuine interest in making a positive contribution to our community. We currently require that students who enroll at Principia must be active students of Christian Science for at least 6 months.

Principia also expects community members, including students, to uphold community standards beginning six months prior to enrollment at the College. These standards and expectations include freedom from any use of illegal or alcohol- or tobacco-related substances. You are also expected to be free from engagement in any premarital or extra-marital sexual activities.

## Choose from 3 programs

1. Four-year program - Bachelor's Degree for first-time university students. More than 20 subject areas are offered for study.
2. Transfer program - Students who have already completed a year or more at another university can switch to Principia to complete their Bachelor's Degree.

You'll need to ask your university to send Principia your official transcripts by mail. Once they arrive, Principia will determine which classes will count towards a Principia degree. If classes are similar to classes at Principia, students can often get credit. It is helpful to save and send the course description and syllabus for each class.

3. One-year enrichment program - For students seeking a gap year before university, or for university graduates who are interested in experiencing Principia. Enrichment students attend normal classes, and are required to do the homework and take the tests. They are not eligible to play a varsity sport against other universities but are welcome to participate in all other student activities, including friendly sports matches between Principia students. If you already have a degree, the one-year program is the only one that provides financial aid. Enrichment students get a transcript listing the courses taken and the grades received, but do not earn a Bachelor's Degree.

Notes:

1. Principia does not offer master's or other graduate degrees, nor does our curriculum include remedial academic courses.
2. Principia also does not teach Christian Science. If you want to learn about Christian Science, please visit your local Church and Reading Room, or see:  
<https://www.christianscience.com>

## Academic Preparation

Before you start studies at Principia, you must have completed secondary school and have earned a diploma or certificate of completion which makes you eligible for admission to a university in your home country.

To ensure that all incoming students are prepared for college-level academic work, we look for the following minimum requirements:

- Above-average grades/marks in secondary/high school
- A 1010 cumulative score on the SAT exam\*
- A score of 80 on the TOEFL exam\*\*

## **Demonstrate university readiness**

Strong grades/marks in secondary/high school show your dedication and consistency as a student. We also require a national American university entrance examination called the College Board's SAT. Taking this test in March, May, October or December before your application deadline are best for getting into Principia. (Be sure to check when this test is available in your country.) When registering, please ask that your test results be sent to Principia College [code 1630]. Typically, SAT test fees are US\$100 and TOEFL are US\$200. Registration procedures and deadlines vary by country. Please check in advance. (\*Students with a bachelor's degree from an accredited university may ask if the SAT can be waived.)

## **Demonstrate English proficiency**

All applicants must be able to read and write English with ease and to understand conversational and formal English as spoken in lectures and group discussions. The quantity and quality of academic work expected at Principia cannot be accomplished without sufficient mastery of the English language. We are not able to offer ESL, intensive English or remedial classes for those not yet ready for the classroom.

For more information about the TOEFL test and to register, please visit [www.ets.org/toefl](http://www.ets.org/toefl). (\*\*Applicants from the UK, non-French-speaking Canada, New Zealand, and Australia may ask to be exempted from the TOEFL.)

## **Recommended preparation to attend on an F1 student visa**

- **4 years before starting Principia:**

Do your best in key classes such as math, history, social science, natural science, and languages, especially English. Save your school reports so you can send Principia copies of your grades.

- **2 years before:**

Study for the SAT and TOEFL tests through classes or online study aids. Continue studying English. The goals are 1010+ SAT and 80+ TOEFL.

Free SAT study: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/practice>

Free TOEFL study: <https://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/prepare>

## Applying for Financial Aid

Principia seeks to make a college education accessible to all admitted students – and we are committed to making the financial piece of that investment as affordable for you as possible. We offer need-based financial aid (gifts) that applies to tuition, room, and board.

Financial aid awards are based on demonstrated financial need, which is determined from information about the student and their family's income, assets, and expenses.

Financial aid is available to both one-year enrichment and four-year degree students.

### Financial Aid Application Process:

- Complete and submit the international financial aid application.  
(The form will be sent to you after you are admitted.)
- The Financial Aid Office will determine your financial aid award and send you the Certification of Finances form. This is a standard government form and will become an important part of your visa documentation.
- Complete and submit your Certification of Finances form showing you can provide funding towards your remaining education costs.  
(Note: If you reference money in a bank account, you need to take the form to the bank and have an official either stamp it or write a two-sentence letter on bank letterhead saying that you (or your family) maintain an account at the bank and that the indicated funds are available.)

The financial aid awarded to international students is a grant, not a loan; you do not have to pay it back. However, financial aid will not cover all expenses. All students are expected to contribute to their education, and you will incur additional costs during your time at Principia. (See **“Educational Expenses during Enrollment”** below.) Most international students work part-time on campus to help cover their expenses. Also, please be aware that coming to the United States on a student visa limits your ability to work in the U.S. after graduation.

## Overall Cost

Going to college in a different country can be a large financial commitment. Below are the estimated costs of living in the U.S. and the cost of tuition and fees at Principia for one year.

2019-2020 Principia Cost: Tuition: \$29,490 + Room: \$5,670 + Board: \$6,290 = TOTAL: \$41,450

Average financial aid package to help new students with tuition, room, and board: \$33,381

There are some additional expenses you must be prepared to assume—both before and during your study at Principia. NOTE: Principia’s financial aid does not cover these costs:

- **Expenses Prior to Enrollment:**

- SAT and TOEFL test fees (from \$80 to \$255)
- Enrollment deposit of \$450 (this includes the \$350 SEVIS fee)
- Passport application fee (varies from \$50 - \$300)
- Visa application fee \$160
- Visa interview fee (varies from \$50 - \$300)
- Shots / medical exams (varies from \$20 - \$400)
- Airfare for travel between home and Principia

**Total expenses prior to enrollment:** \$1,810 - \$4,000

*(These fees are different in each country.)*

- **Educational Expenses during Enrollment:**

(Principia does not assist with the following expenses.)

- Required books are typically \$200 - \$400 each semester
- Personal computer or smartphone (recommend at least having one of these)
- Student fees and school supplies (pencils, pens, paper, etc.)
- Clothing (includes cold weather needs)
- U.S. taxes approximately \$1,200 each year
- Insurance approximately \$700 each year (may not include dental or non-emergency hospital visits)
- School break on-campus rent and food, approximately \$1,200 each year
- Airfare or other travel during vacation breaks

**Total expenses during enrollment: At least \$4,000 each year**

## Contacting Principia

Our international admissions counselor, Nathan Smith, is a Principia College graduate who is available to talk with you and your family. He can walk you through the application process, tell you about financial aid and scholarships, and help you find answers to all your questions.

Nathan looks forward to hearing from you!

Email: [intl admissions@principia.edu](mailto:intladmissions@principia.edu)

Phone: +1 (618) 374-5179 or +1 (618) 374-2131

# List of 10 Required documents

*to apply to Principia College. Once you have registered for the test(s), you can complete the other admission requirements in any order, as long as Principia receives everything by the application deadline.*

1. The Common Application includes essays that take time to complete.

<http://apply.commonapp.org/>

2. SAT results (1010 or higher) - <http://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/practice>

Request scores be sent to Principia:

<http://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/scores/sending-scores>

3. TOEFL results (80 or higher) - [www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/prepare](http://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/prepare)

Request scores be sent to Principia: [www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/scores/send/](http://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/scores/send/)

4. Official transcripts or school term reports sent by your secondary school directly to Principia by mail or courier. These should show records for each class over 4 years. Please send to: International Admissions - Principia College - One Maybeck Place - Elmhurst, IL - 60120 - USA

5. Certificate of graduation should also be sent by your school.

6. University transcripts (if you have attended university) should be sent by your university directly to Principia. If you have attended university but did not complete a term, please ask the university to send Principia a letter saying you have withdrawn from being a student. If you need help, we can supply a template letter.

7. and 8. Academic reference forms from two teachers. Or submit a work reference if you have been out of school for more than one year.

<http://www.principiacollege.edu/admissions-apply/academic-reference>

[www.principiacollege.edu/admissions-apply/work-reference](http://www.principiacollege.edu/admissions-apply/work-reference)

9. and 10. Christian Science reference forms completed by two other people. One should be your Sunday School teacher.

<http://www.principiacollege.edu/admissions-apply/christian-science-reference>

*Do you know whether you would like to start classes in January for the Spring Semester, or start classes in August for the Autumn Semester? In January the average temperature is zero degrees Celsius, and only 5 to 10 students start at this time of year. August is the traditional American beginning of the school year, and about 100 students begin classes in August when the average temperature is 24 degrees Celsius.*

# Suggested Application Timeline

*(The timeline below is for starting classes in August. Most students start in August. Please ask for a January timeline if you prefer to start in January.)*

- **August** (One year before you plan to start classes)  
(From the time you make your first inquiry to the Admissions Office, to the time you are granted a visa, it often takes about 12 months.)
  - Fill out this online form: <http://www.principiacollege.edu/Gettingstarted>
  - Signing up for the SAT and TOEFL examinations may require having a passport. Getting your passport can take additional time, so look into the SAT and TOEFL requirements early, and explore the passport requirements as well.
  - Register to take the SAT and TOEFL tests in October or November.
- **September**
  - Collect your last 4 years of marks. If possible, have your school send them directly to: [intladmissions@principia.edu](mailto:intladmissions@principia.edu). Fax and postal mail are also acceptable. Applicants from African countries should contact the international student admissions counselor about how to submit senior secondary school national exam results.
  - Submit an international student application through The Common Application. Make sure you plan some time for this as it includes essays that take time to complete. <<https://www.commonapp.org/how-apply>>  
(Once you submit your application, an admissions counselor will contact you directly to guide you through the remaining checklist items that need to be submitted.)
  - Submit your transcripts. (When applying to Principia College, you will need to provide transcripts from secondary school and all colleges and universities you've attended. Transcripts must be sent via postal mail, directly from your university to: International Admissions, Principia College, 1 Maybeck Place, Elsau, IL 62028 USA).
- **October**
  - Take the SAT and TOEFL tests now (or in November).
  - Ask two teachers from key academic subjects to write and send the academic reference form. Submit a work reference in place of the academic reference if you have been out of school for more than one year.

- **November**
  - Take the SAT and TOEFL tests now (if you have not in October).
  - Ask your Sunday school teacher and one person who knows your understanding and practice of Christian Science to write and send the Christian Science reference form.
- **December**
  - Complete The Common Application (if you haven't done so yet).
  - Ask for official grades to be submitted by your secondary school (and university, if applicable).
- **January**
  - **January 15 application deadline.** All portions of the application, including references, grades, and test scores are due.
- **February**
  - February 15 - Principia will let you know if you've been admitted and will send you a financial aid application.
  - Submit your Financial Aid Request Form. Decisions are usually returned in two weeks.
- **March/April**
  - Focus on finishing your last year of school with strong marks in each class.
- **May**
  - May 1 Deadline - Your enrollment deposit and photo of passport are due.
  - May 15: Apply for student visa using documents from Principia. (You cannot apply earlier than 3 months before traveling. However, it sometimes takes up to 3 months to acquire a visa.)
- **June**
  - Attend the visa interview
  - Register for classes.
  - Submit health documents.
  - After you have a visa, buy your plane ticket. Send the flight details to: [intladmissions@principia.edu](mailto:intladmissions@principia.edu)
- **July**
  - Review the suggested packing list and begin packing your luggage.
- **August**
  - Arrive at Principia one or two days before New International Student Orientation. College begins!

# Autumn Application Timeline

## Getting ready:

Studies at Principia are challenging. To be sure students are ready, Principia looks for 4 years of good marks during secondary school, and the ability to test well at the American university level by listening, reading, reasoning, writing, and speaking in English. Do your best in key classes like maths, sciences, history, English, and your local academic language. Save your school marks to send Principia copies.

## 2 years before:

Study for the SAT and TOEFL tests through classes or online study aids. Continue studying English.

## 1 year before:

Continue preparing for SAT and TOEFL and studying English.

Complete the calendar below to apply for Fall/Autumn Semester.\*

August - one year before	September	October
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fill out this online form: <a href="http://www.principiacollege.edu/Gettingstarted">www.principiacollege.edu/Gettingstarted</a></li> <li>• Register to take the SAT and TOEFL tests in October or December. (May require getting your passport first.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect your last 4 years of grades. If possible, have your school send them directly to: <a href="mailto:intladmissions@principia.edu">intladmissions@principia.edu</a></li> <li>• Start working on The Common Application. It includes <u>essays</u> that take time to complete.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take the SAT and TOEFL tests now (or in December).</li> <li>• Ask two teachers from key academic subjects to write and send the academic reference form.</li> </ul>
November	December	January
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask your Sunday School teacher and one person who knows your understanding and practice of Christian Science to write and send the CS reference form.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take the SAT and TOEFL tests now (if you have not in October).</li> <li>• Complete The Common Application.</li> <li>• Ask for official grades to be submitted.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>January 15 application deadline.</b> All portions of the application, including references, grades, and test scores are due.</li> </ul>
February	March/April	May
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• February 15 - Principia will let you know if you've been accepted.</li> <li>• Submit your Financial Aid Request Form. Decisions are usually returned in two weeks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on finishing your last year of school with strong marks in each class.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May 1 Deadline - Your enrollment deposit and photo of <u>passport</u> are due.</li> <li>• May 15: Apply for <u>student visa</u>.</li> </ul>
June	July	August
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Register for classes.</li> <li>• Submit health documents.</li> <li>• After you have a visa, buy your plane ticket.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the suggested packing list and begin packing your luggage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrive at Principia one or two days before New International Student Orientation.</li> <li>• <b>College begins!</b></li> </ul>

\*To apply to start college in January during Spring Semester, email: [intladmissions@principia.edu](mailto:intladmissions@principia.edu)