



International Student Admissions Guide

BSK is authorized under federal law to admit non-immigrant alien students.

For internationals seeking F-1 student visas, there is a five-step process to meet BSK's requirements:

1. Admissions Application
2. TOEFL Scores
3. Finances for I-20
4. Housing
5. Health Insurance

Application Deadlines:

- Spring Semester — Application and supporting documents are due by November 1
- Fall Semester — Application and supporting documents are due by May 1

Step 1: Application

Send the application to the BSK Admissions Office. The application may be accepted via email, unless otherwise noted, to info@bsky.org or by regular mail, attention: "Admissions." An application includes:

- A completed application
- A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in the United States or proof of an equivalent degree from a foreign university
- A minimum grade point average of 2.5 overall and 3.0 in one's major
- A one-time non-refundable application fee of \$35.00
- Personal and Spiritual Autobiography: two typed, double-spaced essays of 800-1200 words each with attention to style and content, addressing the following:
 - *Personal Autobiography*—Describe your understanding of how your family history and relationships contribute to your identity and readiness for ministry.
 - *Spiritual Autobiography*—Include the following:
 - Describe your understanding of the significant intellectual and religious influences on your spiritual development.
 - How have these factors influenced your understanding of your call to ministry?
 - What are your expectations for your seminary experience?
- An official transcript from each institution of higher education that you have attended. In place of transcripts, a transient student is required to provide a letter from the institution from which you are pursuing a degree affirming (a) good standing and (b) that the course(s) being taken will satisfy degree requirements
- A completed reference form from each of the following:
 - (1) A minister of your home or current church
 - (2) A church member, family member, or peer

(3) A professor or supervisor
Forms can be downloaded on the BSK website (www.bsky.org)

- TOEFL Score (See Step 2 for instructions)
- Statement of Financial Support (See Step 3 for instructions)
- F-1 Deposit (See Step 3 for Instructions)

Once your complete application is received in the BSK Admissions Office, you can expect to be notified of a decision within three weeks.

Step 2: TOEFL Score

An official TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) score report is required for admission to the Baptist Seminary of Kentucky. No person whose native language is other than English may be admitted without a TOEFL score, unless he or she has obtained a bachelor's degree at an accredited English-speaking institution. A minimum TOEFL 83 iBT (internet-based test) score, a 220 on computer-based tests or 550 on paper based tests is required.

For information about the test offered around the world, visit Educational Testing Service's TOEFL website www.ets.org/toefl, or email toefl@ets.org. Official TOEFL score reports should be mailed directly to BSK. The BSK **institutional code is 1363**. Place this number in the appropriate place on the test registration form to insure your score report will be mailed to BSK.

F-1 Transfer Students (now in the U.S.):

F-1 students already living in the U.S. and desiring to transfer to Baptist Seminary of Kentucky should phone the BSK Office at 502-863-8300 to discuss the simple process of SEVIS "F-1 transfer," and any special circumstances in their case.

BSK may issue a new I-20 for you *only after* your current school has "transferred out" your SEVIS record to BSK. Your school will require you to offer evidence that you in fact have been admitted to BSK and BSK requires that you offer evidence of your new annual support as described below for studying at BSK.

Step 2: Financial Evidence & F-1 Deposit For I-20

The U.S. Government requires you to provide proof of financial support in an amount not less than the cost of the program of study plus living expenses for *each year* you are in the U.S. (see table below). You will need to certify the source and amount of the annual financial support for visa purposes.

Family Status Must Evidence:

- Student \$15,000 per year
- Student & spouse \$24,000 per year
- Student, spouse + 1 child \$27,000 per year
- Student, spouse + 2 children \$30,000 per year
- Student, spouse + 3 children \$33,000 per year

- Student, spouse + 4 children \$36,000 per year

Evidence of Annual Financial Support: Once you are admitted, *and ideally 3 or 4 months before you plan to arrive at BSK*, you must provide BSK the documents evidencing your **annual** (yearly) **financial support** for the length of your program (M.Div. at 4 yrs.).

Support may be expressed *by any combination of your personal savings, and/or pledged support* from one or more sponsors. Sponsors should complete the “**Statement of Financial Support**” affidavit (official pledge), printable from the “International Students” page of the BSK website. Sponsors must attach bank or tax statements sufficiently (not necessarily *fully*) to show ability to honor their annual pledge.

“F-1 Deposit”: As an advantage at your student visa interview, and a great convenience in your first semester, **BSK also requires** for the issuance of the Immigration Form I-20 to you a fully refundable “**F-1 deposit**” of **\$4,000 for a single student, and \$6,000 for a family**. *For the above considerations, transfer students already in F-1 status, and coming from other U.S. schools, need not make this deposit.* The check should be made payable in U.S. dollars to “Baptist Seminary of Kentucky,” and its memo/notes section should indicate “For student [your name].” Your bank will know how to do these things. It should be mailed to the seminary’s Admissions Office. The funds will be deposited in your student account for immediate use when you arrive on campus, and promptly refunded if you do not.

Financial Aid: Students granted the F-1 visa will automatically receive an “F-1 scholarship” of \$1000, (paid \$500 per semester) in their first year. Students will apply each year during the spring semester for future financial aid.

Employment: At the student visa interview you *maynot* claim future work income toward your financial support, because the seminary does not provide on-campus employment.

You may work off-campus *only after your first two semesters and for a limited period*, under the Citizenship and Immigration Service’s (USCIS) authorization for “Practical Training” in your ministry field of study, or, in any work, if you can prove to the USCIS your unforeseen and extreme financial hardship.

Step 4: Housing

The Seminary does not have on-campus housing. The seminary campus is located in the heart of a small community where there is good access to off-campus housing, grocery stores, restaurants and other necessary conveniences. The nearby off-campus apartment rates range from \$400 to \$800 per month.

The Admissions Office will be glad to help you locate an appropriate apartment. You may contact them at info@bsky.org or at phone (502) 863-8300.

Step 5: Health Insurance

Each international student must purchase and maintain health insurance while at the seminary. The cost of medical insurance available through student insurance policies is determined by the age of the student and the number of family members. Rates are subject to change. For detailed information on plans and rates, please consult with the Director of Admissions

Students may choose to acquire health insurance from another provider. Married couples planning to have children should maintain comprehensive medical insurance, since the cost of having a baby in the U.S. can exceed \$10,000. Single students in good general health are recommended to maintain at least “major medical” or “catastrophic” insurance.