



**TOURO COLLEGE**  
**GRADUATE SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY**

**INTERNATIONAL  
STUDENTS  
BULLETIN**  
*2014-2016*



# International Students Bulletin

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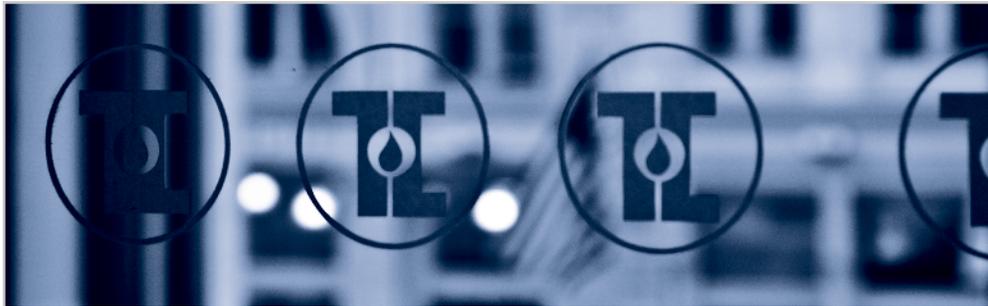
Touro College is chartered by the Board of Regents of the State of New York and is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104 (Tel: 267-284-5000). The Middle States Commission on Higher Education is an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the United States Secretary of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.



## INTRODUCTION

### We welcome your interest in the Graduate School of Technology!

The Touro College Graduate School of Technology admits a select number of international students to our Master's-level degree programs. Educational opportunities at this level offer international students the skills, tools, and technology necessary for effective IT leadership, web design, development and management.



Touro College Graduate School of Technology determines eligibility for admission to academic studies at our school. Visa eligibility and admittance to the United States are determined by policies enacted by the Bureau of Consular Affairs, US Department of State.

The information below is intended to help international students navigate both processes: applying for admission and obtaining an F-1 visa.

Our directors Lyuba Fridman, Prerana Bhusal and Jack Romano are available to further clarify *academic and admission* policies and procedures for applicants. Their address is 27-33 West 23rd Street, Suite 331, New York, NY 10010-4202. Their telephone number is 877-669-7227, and email address is [info.gst@touro.edu](mailto:info.gst@touro.edu).

The Designated School Official (DSO), Ms. Sun Hee Choi, Coordinator of International and Veteran Student Affairs, is available to further clarify *visa procedures* for applicants. Her address at the Touro College Main Campus is: 27-33 West 23rd Street, Room 204, New York, NY 10010-4202. The telephone number is 212-463-0400 ext. 5607.

Please be aware that, regardless of past academic achievement, *only persons who possess or qualify for visas permitting the visa holder to pursue higher education in the United States are eligible for admission.*

In addition to admission requirements for all applicants, three additional items concern you as an international student:

- Affidavit of Support
- I-20 Form
- F-1 Visa

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS



1. Completion of a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from an accredited academic institution; a major in Computer Science, Graphic Design or Digital Media is recommended, but not required
2. A minimum of 9 semester hours of computer science courses, including the prerequisites to the desired concentration or their equivalents, are required; alternatively, we will require bridge courses to be completed (see desired concentration for details)
3. A minimum undergraduate and/or graduate grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale)
4. Fulfillment of the English Language Proficiency requirement

Submit all application documents, preferably in one package (except for transcripts), to:

**Touro College  
Graduate School of  
Technology  
27-33 West 23rd Street  
Room 331  
New York, NY 10010**

An admissions officer will contact you following a review of your documents.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applicants should submit the following:

1. Completed application for admission with a \$50 non refundable application fee
2. Personal statement of the applicant's professional aspirations
3. Two letters of recommendation from employers and/or professors
4. Official copies of transcript(s), sent directly to the program by the issuing institution(s). (Foreign students: Transcripts are generally required to be translated and evaluated by a Touro-approved agency. For a list of agencies, log on to [www.naces.org/members.htm](http://www.naces.org/members.htm))

The program director will contact selected applicants to schedule an interview with a faculty committee or designated faculty member.

Students are admitted on a rolling basis.

Students may begin the program in either the Fall, Spring, or Summer semester.

**Please note:** In order to be allowed to register, students will need to provide immunization records.

## EDUCATIONAL CREDENTIAL EVALUATION

Applications to Touro Graduate School of Technology from students who have studied outside of the United States can only be processed after the school receives the following two documents:

An original transcript (mark sheet) must be sent to Touro Graduate School of Technology directly from the issuing school. Transcripts issued to students are not considered official documents. Additionally, if your transcript (mark sheet) is in a language other than English, you must provide a certified translation of that transcript.

A course-by-course educational credential evaluation is usually required to certify academic work completed outside the US. This should be sent directly to the School by a recognized accreditation service. Copies of previous evaluations are not acceptable. The National Association of Credential Evaluation Services provides a list of members whose evaluations are acceptable. For further information please visit their website at: [www.naces.org/members.htm](http://www.naces.org/members.htm)

We recommend using [SpanTran Educational Services](#). Students applying to Touro get discounted pricing from SpanTran for its services, use application code "NYTOURGR2".



## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Applicants whose native language is not English or who did not attend secondary school or college in an English-speaking country must show proficiency in the English language. This can be demonstrated in one of three ways:

- ▶ Taking the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and achieving a minimum score of either 550 (paper-based), 213 (computer-based), or 80 (Internet-based) **OR**
- ▶ Taking the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) examination and achieving a minimum score of 6.

## AFFIDAVIT OF SUPPORT



U S visa regulations require that “F” visa holders provide certification of evidence that they will have adequate funds to meet expenses involved in a proposed program of study. Included in the certification packet is an “Affidavit of Support” which, when completed, must include the sponsor’s name. It must state that the sponsor will financially support the student while in college. The statement must be notarized.

You must also provide proof that the sponsor possesses the funds to support his/her statement. Examples of this would be a bank statement or a letter from the sponsor’s bank or accountant that states that the funds are available.

An I-20 form cannot be issued until an acceptable financial affidavit and certification of finances has been received by the DSO. See pp. 6-10 of this booklet for more information.

The following is an estimate of expenses connected with attending the Touro College Graduate School of Technology for the two-semester 2015-2016 academic year, and living in New York City for a twelve-month calendar year. This budget is a modest average. Your expenses may be more or less, depending upon your personal spending habits and lifestyle. Tuition and fees are based on a minimum of nine credits per semester and are subject to change during the course of your academic program.

The amounts listed below are valid for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Tuition and Fees	\$12,240
Room, Board, Personal Expenses, Books	\$25,760
<b>Total Required Funds per year*</b>	<b>\$38,000</b>

\*Insert this amount in Part B of the Affidavit of Support

## F-1 VISA

Information presented here is a summary of the explanation and procedures for obtaining an F-1 visa.

The F-1 visa is a student visa issued by the US Department of State. Non-US citizens who do not hold a green card and wish to enroll in the Touro College Graduate School of Technology need an F-1 visa. The most up-to-date and accurate information on obtaining an F-1 visa can be found on the website of the US Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Prospective students are urged to visit the website at: [http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types\\_1268.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1268.html)

Visa procedures vary slightly from one consulate or embassy to another. However, there are standard items that are required for the F-1 application:

- ▶ Properly completed Form I-20
- ▶ Proof of having paid the SEVIS fee (see p. 10 of this bulletin)
- ▶ Evidence of financial ability to meet expenses
- ▶ Evidence of English ability sufficient for the course of study
- ▶ Evidence of intent to depart the United States after completion of studies
- ▶ Passport valid for at least six months
- ▶ Form DS-156, "Nonimmigrant Visa Application" (PDF) \*
- ▶ Form DS-157, if applicable (Supplemental Nonimmigrant Visa, PDF) \*
- ▶ Form DS-158 (Contact History & Work History, PDF) \*
- ▶ Photograph attached to the DS-156 form  
[http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/info/info\\_1287.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/info/info_1287.html)
- ▶ Machine-Readable Visa (MRV) surcharge fee
- ▶ Visa reciprocity fee (if applicable)



\* Forms available at <http://www.state.gov/m/a/dir/forms>



## I-20 FORM

### 1. What is an I-20 Form?

The I-20 Form is a nonimmigrant visa application which allows foreign students to apply to the U.S. in order to attend a full course of study at colleges, universities, schools, and institutions with language training programs.

### 2. How do I qualify for an I-20 Form?

You must:

- ▶ demonstrate proficiency in the English language
- ▶ prove that you have sufficient funds to complete your education and support yourself (see below)
- ▶ demonstrate that you intend to take a full course of study at a school approved by the USCIS (United States Citizenship and Immigration Service)

### 3. What financial requirements must I meet to receive an I-20 Form?

You must demonstrate that you have adequate financial means to support yourself through the entire academic program, and that adequate funds are currently available for the coming academic year. Acceptable evidence may include school financial aid, personal and family funds, and government assistance. "Adequate funds" means enough money to pay for one year of tuition plus living and incidental expenses.

### 4. How can I get an I-20 Form?

Non-US citizens who wish to apply to the Touro College Graduate School of Technology, and need an I-20 form, must follow the steps listed below.

#### I. STUDENTS WHO DO NOT LIVE IN THE UNITED STATES

- a) Fill out the admissions application, following all directions.
- b) The Admissions Committee of the Touro College Graduate School of Technology will review your application material to determine your eligibility for acceptance.
- c) If you are accepted, you will receive an acceptance letter and other admission forms, a blank affidavit of support, and medical immunization forms.
- d) If you accept this offer of admission from the Touro College Graduate School of Technology, you must return your signed acceptance of the admission offer and other admissions forms, the completed affidavit of support, and your completed medical immunization forms.

- e) The affidavit of support must include the sponsor's name and state that the sponsor will financially support you while you attend college. You must provide proof that the sponsor possesses the funds to back up his/her statement. Examples of proof might be a bank statement or a letter from the sponsor's bank or accountant that states that the funds are available. The statement must be notarized.
- f) Upon receipt of materials listed in item "d" above, the Designated School Official (DSO) will issue the I-20 form.
- g) Bring the I-20 form, with the affidavit of support and letter of acceptance, to the American Embassy or Consulate in your home country and the Embassy or Consulate will issue the visa. When you come to New York, contact the Graduate School of Technology Program Office (at 27 West 23rd Street, Room 331, New York, NY 10010; 877-669-7227) prior to completing the registration process.

## II. STUDENTS WHO LIVE IN THE UNITED STATES AND ARE TRANSFERRING FROM ANOTHER COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

**In addition to items a-f in section I above,** if you are transferring to the Touro College Graduate School of Technology from another academic institution, you must submit the Institutional Transfer Form to your present college and have that school:

- a) complete the form and return it to Touro College Graduate School of Technology and
- b) electronically transfer your Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) information to Touro College.

In addition, you must present your passport and I-94 card at the time of registration at the Touro College Graduate School of Technology in order to complete the transfer process and remain in F-1 status.

### 5. How many classes do I have to attend to maintain my legal status?

As per immigration regulations, F-1 visa students must be enrolled full-time; at the graduate level, this means they must carry at least 9 credits per semester during Spring and Fall semesters, at the graduate level.

### 6. Can I drop below 9 credits and not lose my legal status?

Under certain academic or medical circumstances, you may be authorized to carry a reduced course load. Before you drop a class, please see the DSO to discuss your situation.



**7. What is the deadline for submission of application materials?**

The Admission Committee considers candidates only after all application materials are received. The deadlines for submission of application materials are:

- ▶ For Fall semester enrollment - July 15
- ▶ For Spring semester enrollment - December 15
- ▶ For Summer session enrollment - April 15

**8. How long does it take to get my I-20 Form?**

After your acceptance of the admission offer, Touro will evaluate the affidavit of support and issue the I-20, which takes 3 business days. Take the form I-20, plus the affidavit of support to the U.S. Embassy or Consulate in your country so that your student visa can be issued.

Since September 11, 2001, the US has updated its visa policies to increase security for our citizens and visitors. It will likely take you longer than it used to get a visa, and you will find that a few new security measures have been put into place. For details that may apply specifically to your country, see information posted by your nearest consulate or embassy. The US Department of State website <http://www.unitedstatesvisas.gov> provides further details.

**9. Can you send me an I-20 Form while I am waiting to be admitted?**

No. The I-20 cannot be issued until all admission processes are complete.

**10. How soon can I come to the United States after my visa is issued?**

You will be allowed to enter the United States no sooner than 30 days before the program start date indicated in point 5 on your I-20 form.

**11. Can I extend my stay in the U.S. on an F-1 visa if I am unable to complete my studies in the assigned time?**

Yes, you may apply for an extension of stay if you need extra time to complete your studies. Your Form I-20 can be extended by the Designated School Official.

**12. How soon do I have to leave the United States after I graduate?**

You are allowed to remain in the United States for a period of sixty days, beginning on the program completion date indicated on your I-20 *or* on the last day of classes, *whichever is earlier*, unless you have been approved for Optional Practical Training (OPT) (see item 13 below), in which case one year is the period of time.

**13. Are there any travel restrictions on an F-1 visa?**

Yes. You may use the vacation period between two semesters or other holidays to visit your home. You should consult your Designated School Official (DSO) prior to traveling. You must have a current SEVIS Form I-20, endorsed on page 3 for travel, and your DSO needs to be able to verify that your SEVIS record is accurate and up-to-date.

You must limit your time out of the United States to less than five months. When re-entering the US, you must have the following documents:

- ▶ A valid Form I-20 with a recent signature of the DSO on page 3 of the form
- ▶ A valid passport
- ▶ A valid visa

#### 14. Can I work on an F-1 visa?

Employment opportunities for F-1 students are very limited. As per immigration regulations, F-1 visa students may legally be employed *on campus* for up to 20 hours per week. There are no special procedures used to apply for this type of employment; authorization is not required. You may begin as soon as you are offered a position, and your job does not have to be related to your field of study. After being on a student visa for one academic year, you may apply to the DSO for permission to work off-campus in a job directly related to your major, for 20 hours per week. This is called Curricular Practical Training (CPT). Three months prior to graduation, see the DSO if you wish to apply for permission from the Department of Homeland Security to continue this arrangement on a full-time basis for one year (called Optional Practical Training or OPT).

#### 15. What are the requirements for transfer to another school?

To transfer to another school, you must:

- ▶ be a full-time student and intend to continue to be a full-time student at the new school.
- ▶ be accepted by the other institution.
- ▶ prove that you have the financial resources required for your education.
- ▶ notify Touro College that you are seeking to transfer.
- ▶ obtain the Transfer Form from the new school.

#### 16. Do I have to purchase medical (health) insurance while in the United States?

No, but it is highly recommended that you do so.

#### 17. What is SEVIS?

SEVIS (the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) is the United States government's tracking system for international students. SEVIS begins monitoring a student even before he or she enters the U.S. Each I-20 form is individually numbered, and the US Embassy or Consulate uses these numbers to confirm the authenticity of an I-20 when a visa application is processed. It is important to keep in mind that SEVIS is an automated system, closely and continuously monitored by the Department of Homeland Security and the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS).



**18. What is the SEVIS I-901 fee?**

Effective September 1, 2004, the US Department of Homeland Security introduced an additional fee, often referred to as the SEVIS I-901 fee. The fee is \$200 in most cases, and must be paid electronically by logging onto [www.fmjfee.com](http://www.fmjfee.com). At the end of the payment process, you will have the option of printing a receipt. This receipt is important, as it may be requested during your appointment at the consulate.

**19. How can I learn more about SEVIS I-901 fee?**

To learn more about I-901 fee, go to the website noted above, [www.fmjfee.com](http://www.fmjfee.com)

**20. What should the DSO be informed about that pertains to me as an International Student?**

The Designated School Official is responsible for knowing what is happening with you as an international student. Therefore, in order to maintain a status, it is important to report any of the following events to the DSO:

- ▶ changes in your personal information, such as address or legal name
- ▶ change in academic information
- ▶ change in employment information
- ▶ transfer to another school
- ▶ dropping below a full credit load (except in the last semester of your program)
- ▶ marriage
- ▶ pregnancy
- ▶ medical conditions

Each semester, the DSO is responsible for updating information about you in the SEVIS system, including whether you are still attending Touro College. *Students who fail to maintain status will lose their student visas and may be deported.*

# DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

## FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- Completed application to the Graduate School of Technology
- Copies of transcripts from all colleges attended. A credential evaluation is necessary for academic work completed outside the United States.
- Proof of English proficiency (see p. 3 of this bulletin)
- Two letters of recommendation
- Evidence of financial ability to meet expenses and Affidavit of Support
- Proof of having paid the SEVIS I-901 fee
- Evidence of intent to depart the United States after completion of studies
- Passport valid for at least six months
- Form DS-156, "Nonimmigrant Visa Application" (PDF) \*
- Form DS-157, if applicable (Supplemental Nonimmigrant Visa, PDF) \*
- Form DS-158 (Contact History & Work History, PDF) \*
- A photograph attached to the DS-156 form [http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/info/info\\_1287.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/info/info_1287.html)
- Machine Readable Visa Surcharge (MRV) surcharge fee
- Visa reciprocity fee (if applicable)
- International Student Transfer Form (if required)
- Student Immunization Record and Meningitis Vaccination Response Form



**Touro College  
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of Technology**

27-33 West 23rd Street  
Room 331  
New York, NY 10010

877-669-7227  
info.gst@touro.edu



## **APPENDIX**

The following important forms are attached to help expedite the issuance of the I-20 form needed to secure an F-1 visa:

- ▶ **Affidavit of Support**  
Must be completed, notarized, and submitted with a bank statement. See p. 4 for the required minimum amount
  
- ▶ **International Student Transfer Status Form**  
Required only if you are currently enrolled in a US graduate program and wish to transfer to the Touro College Graduate School of Technology.
  
- ▶ **Student Immunization Record and Meningitis Vaccination Response Form**  
Required under New York State Public Health law for all students born on or after January 1, 1957

These forms must be completed and sent to the Graduate School of Technology, accompanying your signed letter of acceptance.



**TOURO COLLEGE  
OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR**

27-33 West 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, New York, NY 10010  
T: 212.463.0400 ext. 5542 | F: 212.463.9259 | www.touro.edu

**AFFIDAVIT OF SUPPORT**  
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY

Please type or print in blue or black ink.

If you require an F-1 student visa, you must certify that you have adequate financial support for tuition and living expenses for at least the first year of your program of study at Touro College. A Certification of Eligibility (Form I-20) will not be issued until you have completed this form satisfactorily and returned it with the official certifications required. As it is necessary to show the requisite financial support, you **must** fill out Part A **OR** Part B **OR** Parts A and B, then sign your name at the bottom of this page.

**PART A – SAVINGS OR OTHER FUNDS** (Personal and/or family)

Name of Bank \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

**ENCLOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENT SIGNED BY BANK OFFICIAL.**

**PART B – PARENTS AND/OR SPONSOR**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

**PERSON NAMED MUST COMPLETE THE AFFIDAVIT OF SUPPORT BELOW. A BANK STATEMENT SHOWING THAT THE REQUIRED FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE MUST BE ENCLOSED WITH THIS FORM.**

**AFFIDAVIT OF SUPPORT FOR STUDENT**

I hereby certify that I am able, willing and do promise to provide \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of student

with the minimum\* of US \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for tuition, fees and living expenses during each year of study at Touro College. Evidence of my financial resources accompanies this affidavit. (If your country restricts funds sent abroad, it will be necessary for you to enclose central bank approval of currency exchange for transfer of funds to Touro College.)



Sponsor signature

**Notary Public or Legal Official:**

Sworn to and subscribed before me \_\_\_\_\_  
Please print name here

this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ (month) in the year \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of notary public or legal official

\* See page 5 of the current Graduate School of Technology Bulletin for International Students for the required minimum amount.

**By signing my name on this form, I certify that the information above is a correct statement of my arrangements for financing my studies at Touro College.**



Signature

Date





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**STUDENT IMMUNIZATION FORM**  
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY

*This form is to be completed by all students born on or after January 1, 1957.*

**PART I – STUDENT INFORMATION** (To be completed by the student)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
First Last Middle (complete)

Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_ Touro I.D. (if any) \_\_\_\_\_ Prog/Ext \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
mm/dd/yyyy

**Mailing address**

Number and Street \_\_\_\_\_ Apartment # \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Check at least one of the statements below.**

- Part II below is complete for each disease. I have no acceptable alternate record or exemptions to submit.
- Alternate records are attached for each disease for which Part II (below) or Part III (reverse) is not complete.
- Part III on reverse is complete for each vaccination for which I claim medical examination.

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date

**PART II – VACCINATION RECORD** (To be completed by the health care provider)

		Measles	Rubella	Mumps	or Combined MMR
<b>Vaccination date</b> (Two doses required for measles or MMR)	<b>Dose 1</b>	____/____/____	____/____/____	____/____/____	____/____/____
	<b>Dose 2</b>	____/____/____	____/____/____	____/____/____	____/____/____
<b>Disease history</b> (Date of Onset)		____/____/____	____/____/____	____/____/____	____/____/____
<b>Serology Date and Results</b> (Indicate + or -) Include copy of lab report		____/____/____	____/____/____	____/____/____	____/____/____
<b>Scheduled Date for Dose 2</b>		____/____/____	____/____/____	____/____/____	____/____/____

**Important Note About Revaccination:** Measles–If administered prior to 1968 and not specified as “live” and/or if student was less than 12 months of age for first dose and/or less than 15 months of age for second dose, vaccination must be repeated. Indicate date for follow-up. Mumps and Rubella–If vaccination was given prior to 1969 and/or if patient was less than 12 months of age, vaccination must be repeated.

I certify that the above information is correct. (Must be signed by physician/provider.)

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Name / Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clinic Address

(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone



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**STUDENT IMMUNIZATION FORM**  
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY

**PART III – MEDICAL EXEMPTION FROM IMMUNIZATION** (To be completed by the health care provider)

I certify that it is medically contraindicated for the above named person to be vaccinated for the disease(s) indicated below because of the stated medical reasons. (Reason and expiration date—or state if permanent—required for each disease.)

**Check disease(s)—indicate medical reason(s) for contraindication**

**Valid through date**

- Measles – \_\_\_\_\_ /\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_
- Mumps – \_\_\_\_\_ /\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_
- Rubella – \_\_\_\_\_ /\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Must be signed by physician/provider to be acceptable.

Signature	Name /Title	Date
Clinic	Address	Phone

**PART VI – MENINGITIS VACCINATION RESPONSE** (To be completed by student)

*New York State Public Health Law requires that all college and university students enrolled for at least six (6) semester hours or the equivalent per semester, or at least four (4) semester hours per quarter, complete and return the following form to Touro College.*

**Check one box and sign below.**

I have (for students under the age of 18: My child has):

- had the meningococcal meningitis immunization (Menomune™) within the past 10 years.  
Date received \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

{Note: If you (your child) received the meningococcal vaccine available before February 2005, called Menomune™, please note this vaccine’s protection lasts for approximately 3-5 years. Revaccination with the new conjugate vaccine, called Menactra™, should be considered within 3-5 years after receiving Menomune™.}

- read, or have had explained to me, the information regarding meningococcal meningitis disease. I (my child) will obtain immunization against meningococcal meningitis **within 30 days** from my private health care provider or when offered through Touro College.
- read, or have had explained to me, the information regarding meningococcal meningitis disease. I understand the risks of not receiving the vaccine. I have decided that I (my child) will **not** obtain immunization against meningococcal meningitis disease.

Signature (Parent/Guardian if student is a minor)	Date
Print student’s name	Student’s Date of Birth
Student’s e-mail address	Student’s ID #
Student’s mailing address	City
Student’s phone number	State
( ) -	Zip



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# MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE

## NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BUREAU OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL

### What is meningococcal disease?

Meningococcal disease is a severe bacterial infection of the bloodstream or meninges (a thin lining covering the brain and spinal cord.)

### Who gets meningococcal disease?

Anyone can get meningococcal disease, but it is more common in infants and children. For some college students, such as freshmen living in dormitories, there is an increased risk of meningococcal disease. Between 100 and 125 cases of meningococcal disease occur on college campuses every year in the United States; between 5 and 15 college students die each year as result of infection. Currently, no data is available regarding whether children at overnight camps or residential schools are at the same increased risk for disease. However, these children can be in settings similar to college freshmen living in dormitories. Other persons at increased risk include household contacts of a person known to have had this disease, and people traveling to parts of the world where meningitis is prevalent.

### How is the germ meningococcus spread?

The meningococcus germ is spread by direct close contact with nose or throat discharges of an infected person. Many people carry this particular germ in their nose and throat without any signs of illness, while others may develop serious symptoms.

### What are the symptoms?

High fever, headache, vomiting, stiff neck and a rash are symptoms of meningococcal disease. Among people who develop meningococcal disease, 10-15% die, in spite of treatment with antibiotics. Of those who live, permanent brain damage, hearing loss, kidney failure, loss of arms or legs, or chronic nervous system problems can occur.

### How soon do the symptoms appear?

The symptoms may appear 2 to 10 days after exposure, but usually within five days.

### What is the treatment for meningococcal disease?

Antibiotics, such as penicillin G or ceftriaxone, can be used to treat people with meningococcal disease.

### Is there a vaccine to prevent meningococcal meningitis?

Yes, a safe and effective vaccine is available. The vaccine is 85% to 100% effective in preventing four kinds of bacteria (serogroups A, C, Y, W-135) that cause about 70% of the disease in the United States. The vaccine is safe, with mild and infrequent side effects, such as redness and pain at the injection site lasting up to 2 days. After vaccination, immunity develops within 7 to 10 days and remains effective for approximately 3 to 5 years. As with any vaccine, vaccination against meningitis may not protect 100% of all susceptible individuals.

### How do I get more information about meningococcal disease and vaccination?

Contact your family physician or your student health service. Additional information is also available on the web sites of the New York State Department of Health, [www.health.state.ny.us](http://www.health.state.ny.us); the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [www.cdc.gov/ncid/dbmd/diseaseinfo](http://www.cdc.gov/ncid/dbmd/diseaseinfo); and the American College Health Association, [www.acha.org](http://www.acha.org).





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