Preparing for an F-1 Visa Interview

Steps:
1. Contact your local U.S. Embassy/Consulate to inquire about how to get an F-1 visa.
2. After you receive an I-20 form from Trinity University, follow the U.S. Embassy/Consulate’s instructions to schedule an interview for your F-1 student visa. It is important to apply for your student visa as far in advance as possible.
3. Pay the visa application fee in the amount of $160 USD
4. Complete Form I-901 and pay the $200 USD SEVIS fee. Be sure to write your name exactly how it appears on the I-20 Form.
5. Download and complete the DS-160 nonimmigrant visa application form from US Department of State website.

Prepare and bring to your visa interview the following:

- A passport valid for at least six months
- Form I-20 (sign and date the form under Item 11)
- Transcripts and diplomas from previous institutions attended
- Scores from standardized tests required by the educational institution (TOEFL, SAT, etc.)
- School admission letter and scholarship information (if any)
- Completed visa application (DS-160)
- Two 2”x 2” photographs, see prescribed format
- A receipt for the visa application fee and a receipt for the SEVIS fee
- Financial evidence that shows you have sufficient funds to cover your tuition and living expenses during the period you intend to study.
- Any information that proves that you will return to your home country after finishing your studies in the United States. The regulations require that the visa officer is satisfied that you intend to depart upon termination of your student status. Consequently, you must prove at the time of visa application:
  - A residence abroad;
  - No immediate intention of abandoning that residence; and
  - Intention to depart from the United States upon completion of the course of study.

On the day of your visa interview:
- Arrive early and dress appropriately.
- Remain calm. Answer all the Visa Officer’s questions to you openly and honestly.
- Keep it simple, know your stuff, and try to provide the most direct answers that you can.

When visa is received:
- Make sure there are no misspellings and all information on visa is correct.
- A visa allows a foreign citizen coming from abroad to travel to the United States port-of entry and request permission to enter the U.S. Be aware that a visa does not guarantee entry into the US. The Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials have authority to permit or deny admission to the US.