

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As the representative for Pfeiffer University regarding issues concerning international students, I am writing on behalf of those students who are enrolled full-time at our school. International students studying in the United States have been issued F-1 student visas by embassy or consular officials of the U. S. Department of State. These visas were issued only after they furnished both Pfeiffer University and embassy/consular officials substantial proof of financial ability to cover both educational and living expenses.

Many international students do not have Social Security Numbers. Under rules enforced by the United States Government (Section 326 of the Patriot Act), Social Security Numbers are not issued, nor meant to be used, for identification purposes. Included in this legislation is the requirement that international students have employment before being issued a Social Security Number. However, under U.S. immigration rules, international students who enter the United States with a student visa are not allowed to work off campus for at least one year, and even then their employment opportunities are very restrictive and must meet certain criteria. Fortunately, employment is rarely necessary for these students, because they have already proven that they have sufficient financial support to meet their expenses.

Pfeiffer's international students have passports, F-1 visas, I-94 forms, and I-20's as proof of identification. We request that you accept their passport numbers in lieu of a Social Security Number. If you have any questions, or if I can be of any assistance, please contact me at (704) 463-3368 or at Rebecca.Hraczo@pfeiffer.edu.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Hraczo, PDSO, RO
Coordinator, International Student
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Pfeiffer University