Immigration and F-1 Visa Information Session
Overview

- What is SEVIS?
- Rules
- Forms
- Common Questions
- Quiz
What is SEVIS?
What is SEVIS?

- Your electronic immigration record
- Pay SEVIS fee ($200) to USICE.
- If you do not pay, your record will be terminated.
Who have access to your SEVIS record?

- CBP: Customs & Border Protection
- SEVP: Student and Exchange Visitor Program
- ICE: Immigration & Customs Enforcement
- USCIS: U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services
- U.S. Embassies and Consulates
Transfer-in Students

1. Active SEVIS record can be transferred from School A to School B.
2. Have you asked to release your SEVIS record to Shoreline?
3. If you are not sure, see us in the office.
Active = In-Status

- Students follow F-1 rules (talk about it later) and have a lawful status to stay in the U.S. Their SEVIS status is "ACTIVE". 

![SEVIS Status Card]

- Status: ACTIVE
- Status Change Date: June 30, 2015
- SEVIS ID: N000
- I-20 Issue Reason: CONTINUED ATTENDANCE
Students violated one or more F-1 immigration rules. Their SEVIS record is “TERMINATED” and they have no lawful status to stay in the U.S.
IMMIGRATION RULES
RULE 1

Passport

**DO NOT** let passport expire.

- Your passport must be valid all the time.
- Make sure you have at least 6 months in the future when you enter the U.S.
Contact the local Embassy or consular section for the country of your citizenship for information for replacing a lost or stolen passport.
Admission Stamp

- What does the stamp tell you?

Date and place you entered the U.S.

Immigration status (F-1)

Authorized period of stay (indicated by "D/S", meaning "duration of status").
RULE 2
I-20, Visa, and I-94

DO NOT let your I-20 expire.

► Your passport must be valid all the time.
► Make sure you to see an advisor for extension.
I-20
Know about your I-20

Check program start and end date
Make sure to sign
Your SEVIS number
I-20
Get a travel signature before leave the U.S.

Must be signed by a Designated School Official. (IE advisor, Immigration Specialist)
Signature should be no more than 6 months old.
I-94 Number
Your arrival-departure record

You also need I-94 number for:
- WA State ID card
- WA State Driver’s License
- Social Security Number
- Applying for OPT
Electronic I-94 Record

Get I-94@
https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94/#!/home
If you enter the land border ports of entry (e.g. entering from Canada or Mexico) you will get a paper I-94.
RULES 3
BE a FULL-TIME student.

You need to register AND attend at least 12 credits per quarter.
Attendance

DO NOT withdraw, skip classes, or stop attending classes.

You need to register AND Attend classes!
Grades do not count

Following grade(s) do not count as “attendance”.

N (Audit)
W (Authorized Withdrawal)
V (Unauthorized Withdrawal)
Z (Hardship Withdrawal)
Audit
(N Grade)

you can participate in the class but **NO CREDIT** is earned for the coursework.

I registered 15 credits.

5 credits are for the audit class.

You enrolled only 10 credits!

You are in a trouble!
Authorized Withdrawal (W Grade)

This class is too difficult... I want to drop it.

You must have 12+ credits after you drop the class. Talk to your advisor!
Unauthorized Withdrawal
V Grade (Vanished Grade)

This grade is issued if students rarely or do not attend classes.
Hardship Withdrawal
Z Grade

Given at a student’s written request and the instructor’s agreement if the cause is an unforeseen crisis and/or unusual, extreme circumstance.
RULE 4
Online Class Limitation
Regular Quarter

Each quarter, you can take NO more than 1 online class*

Important!
Talk to an advisor to check your eligibility if you want to take more than one online class.
RULE 4
Online Class Limitation
Vacation Quarter

You can take as many online classes you like!
RULE 5
Address Change

Submit the International Student Change of Contact Information form to IE Front Desk within 10 DAYS.
Remember!!

Informing your new address
- Shoreline CC

Informing your new address to
- **US Dept. Homeland Security**
- Shoreline CC
- International Education office
RULE 6

Reduced Course Load

Submit a Reduced Course Load Request (RCL - YELLOW) form to get permission to enroll in less than 12 credits.
When can I take RCL?

- **Authorized Vacation Quarter**
  - Eligible to take a vacation after you complete 3 quarters.
  - Winter 2017 new students
    - Summer 2017 (default – first summer)
    - Fall 2017 (after complete three qrts.)
  - This rule does not apply to transfer-in students
When can I take RCL?

- Medical Problem or Condition
- Last Quarter to Complete Degree
- Eligible academic reason

See an advisor or immigration specialist to get authorization
RULE 7
Leave of Absence/Withdrawal

Request Leave of Absence / Withdrawal

(RED) Request form if you are not eligible for a vacation but need to go home.
RULE 7
Leave of Absence/Withdrawal

▶ Leave of Absence
  ▶ Plans to resume course of study at Shoreline

▶ Withdrawal
  ▶ Does not plan to return to Shoreline

You must leave the U.S. within 15 days after the termination date.
RULE 8
Transfer Out

Submit a Transfer Out Request form if you are admitted by another U.S. SEVIS school and want to transfer.

Copy of acceptance letter is required.
RULE 9
Do Not Work Off-campus!

- Working off-campus without authorization from USCIS is illegal.
- You can work On-campus😊 Check Front Desk for information.
Common Questions
I-20 for Travel

- My I-20’s travel signature is expired!
- I don’t have a travel signature!
- I forgot my I-20!!

If you are still in your home country, contact Immigration Specialist as soon as possible.
Harumi – hkendall@shoreline.edu
Kris – ktown@shoreline.edu
I-20 for Travel

- My I-20’s travel signature is expired!
- I don’t have a travel signature!
- I forgot my I-20!!

If you already on the plane or at the Airport, follow the instruction from the CBP officer.
I-20 for Travel

- Form I-515A
- Issued for 30-day temporary stay

If you receive Form I-515A, see the Immigration Specialist as soon as possible.
F-1 Visa Stamp

- My visa is expired!
You are in the U.S.

Okay to be expired if you are in the U.S.
You are outside of the U.S.

You need a new visa to enter the U.S.
Visa stamp is an entry key

It must be valid when you ENTER the U.S.
If you plan to drive…

- **Visa revocation**: You cannot use the current F-1 visa to enter the U.S.
- **DUI (Driving Under Influence)/DWI (Driving while Intoxicated)** is one of causes of revocation.

**Don’t drink and drive!**
QUIZ
1. What is this minimum number of credits a student must enroll to maintain a F-1 status?
12 credits
2. How many online classes you can take in a regular quarter?
1 online class
3. A student stopped going to one class because it was too easy for him. He received a V grade at the end of quarter. Does it affect his F-1 immigration status?
YES
4. What is the name of form you need to submit before you want to take a vacation quarter?
RCL
(Reduced Course Load) Form
5. Do you need to get a travel signature on your I-20 if you visit Canada for a day trip?
YES

Get a signature if you get a previous signature more than six months ago.
6. I am in my home country and noticed that I lost I-20! I am flying to the U.S. next week. What should I do?
Contact immigration specialist.
7. My visa is expired! Am I in a trouble?
NO
If you are in valid F-1 status, you are fine😊
Questions?
Resources

- “Immigration & Visa Information for F-1 Students Handout” in the Green binder
- Review IE Immigration page.

Click the link to see presentation slides
Downloadable Forms

IMMIGRATION

Frequently Asked Questions

- What does it mean to be a full-time student?
- Can I work while I am a student?
- When can I have a vacation quarter?
- If I am finding that my class is too hard, can I stop attending?
- Why is it important for me to maintain my F-1 status?
- What should I do if I think I am out of status?
- What should I do if I plan to go out of the U.S. for a short time?
- Should I know about my documents?

Helpful Links

- Transfer Out Request Form (University)
- Transfer Out Request Form (Other)
- Reduced Course Load Form
- Leave of Absence Form
- F-1 Status Change Notification Form
- F-1 Visa Information Session PowerPoint
- Change of Contact Information Form
Remember...

It is **your responsibility** to keep your immigration status valid!

- Know and follow the rules.
- Ask IE staff if you have immigration questions.
- *(NOT FRIENDS!)*
- **Regularly** check your college email *(go.shoreline account)* AND **read** emails from IE office.
Questions?

- Immigration Walk-in
  (Time subject to change)

**Monday – Thursday**

10:30 – 11:30 am

2:00 – 3:00 pm

- Make an appointment at the Front Desk