Immigration and F-1 Visa Information
Overview

- What is SEVIS and status?
- 10 Basic F-1 Immigration Rules
- I-20 and Education Levels
- Common Questions
What is SEVIS and Status?
Student and Exchange Visitor Information System

• U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) uses to maintain student information on Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)

Who has access to your SEVIS record?

School

SEVP Student and Exchange Visitor Program

ICE Immigration & Customs Enforcement

USCIS U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services

CBP Customs & Border Protection

U.S. Embassies and Consulates

Student Information

- F-1 STUDENT
- Shoreline Community College - Shoreline Community College
- Start Date: September 28, 2022
- End Date: March 31, 2025
- SEVIS ID: N00000000
- I-20 ISSUE REASON: CONTINUED ATTENDANCE

Personal/Contact
- Gender: Male
- Date of Birth: Age
- City of Birth
- Country of Birth
- Country of Citizenship
- U.S. Telephone
- Foreign Telephone
- Email Address

Overall Remarks

Program
- Education Level: Associate
- Major 1 and Name: Liberal Arts and Sciences/Liberal Studies
- Major 2 and Name: Political Science
- Length of Most Recent Degree
- Degree Awarded: September 28, 2022
- Program End Date: March 31, 2025

Registration
- Initial Session Start Date: September 28, 2022
- Current Session End Date: December 15, 2022
- Next Session Start Date: January 9, 2023
- Length of Next Break/Vacation: 24
- Last Session: Study/Research Abroad
- No Thesis/Dissertation

Status Change Date: September 10, 2022
- Status: ACTIVE
SEVIS Status

**Initial = New record**
New and transfer-in students before they report to the school (New Student Check-in)*

**Active = Current student**
- Completed New Student/Transfer-in Check-in
- The record has been registered in SEVIS system
- Following the F-1 rules
- Allowed to legally stay in the U.S.

**New Student Check-in**
Submit the New Student Intake form and immigration documents
Shoreline registers your SEVIS record as Active

INITIAL ➔ Active
Transfer Students

SEVIS record transfer to one school to another school electronically.

1. Request transfer out at current school
2. Transfer-in student report to Shoreline
3. Shoreline registers your SEVIS record as Active
SEVIS Status

Completed

- The student has completed the course of study or post-completion OPT and reached the end of the 60-day grace period.
- Not allowed to legally stay in the U.S.
SEVIS Status

Terminated

Record is terminated before program completion.

Positive Termination examples:
- Authorized withdraw from the school
- Change of immigration status
- Need to leave the U.S. within 15 days

Negative Termination examples:
- Suspension
- Violated one or more of the F-1 rules such as failure to enroll
- Need to leave the U.S. immediately

ACTIVE  TERMINATED

15-day grace period (positive)
0-day grace period (negative)
11 Basic F-1 Immigration Rules
Rule 1: DO NOT let passport expire!

• Your passport should always be valid – **Do not let it expire!**

• Passport should be valid 6 months into the future at all times
Rule 2: Do Not let your I-20 Expire!

IMPORTANT!

Know your program end date

If it is expired, you will be out of status.
Need Extension?

College level Students:
Submit College level I-20 Request form for advisor’s review
Need Extension?

ESL/EAP Students:
Submit ESL/EAP level I-20 Request form to F-1 specialist
Rule 3: Be a Full-time Student

You must register \textbf{AND} participate in at least \textbf{12} credits per quarter.
Grades that do not Count toward F-1 Enrollment

If you get one of these grades on your transcript, it **DOES NOT** count toward the 12-credit minimum enrollment requirement.

N  W  Z
N: Audit

You participate in class, but you DO NOT earn any credits.
Important!
If you drop a class, you need to know:
- You do not get credit for any classes that you drop.
- You must still have at least 12 credits after you drop the class to maintain F-1 status.

Decide to drop a class?
See an International Student Advisor for approval
Z: Hardship Withdrawal

Given with your written request and your instructor’s approval for an unforeseen crisis and/or unusual, extreme circumstance.

Important!

Your instructor agrees to issue you a Z grade, but you need to know:

- You do not get credits for any classes with a Z grade.
- You must still have at least 12 credits after receiving a Z grade to maintain F-1 status.
Rule 4: Online Class Limit

• You can take only 1 online class per quarter.
• If you want more than 1 online class, you must get approval from an IE advisor.
• ESL/EAP students cannot take online classes
ESL Students

Regular Quarter

• ESL classes cannot be taken online.
• Register for classes with an advisor.

Vacation Quarter

• Check with IE advisor if online classes offered

In-person classes

ESL 060
(10 credits)

ESL 063
(5 credits)

Writing Lab
(2 credits)

Total 17 credits meet F1 requirement
EAP Students

Regular Quarter
• Minimum of 12 credits (EAP and college level) cannot be online.
• Classes beyond full-course of study requirement can be online.
• Register for classes with an IE advisor.

Vacation Quarter
• You can take many online classes without limitation
EAP Students

- EAP 99 (5 credits)
- Drama 144 (5 credits)
- Writing Lab (2 credits)
- Math 111 (5 credits)
- 12 credits in-person
- Online

Total 17 credits meet F1 requirement
College Level Students

Regular Quarter

• You cannot take more than 1 online class within 12 credits minimum enrollment requirement.

• If you want more than 1 online class, you must get approval from an IE advisor.

Vacation Quarter

• You can take online classes without limitation.
College Level Students

ENG 101 (5 credits)

10 credits in-person

Drama 144 (5 credits)

Total 15 credits
meet F1 requirement

Math 111 (5 credits)

5 credits Online

Total 15 credits but does not meet F1 requirement

ENG 101 (5 credits)

5 credits in-person

Drama 144 (5 credits)

Math 111 (5 credits)

10 credits Online

Additional 2 credits must be in face-to-face class
Rule 5: Contact Information Change

Submit the [International Student Contact Information Update Form](#) within 10 DAYS

- Vacation Quarter
- Leave of Absence
- Medical Leave
- OPT

Please email F-1 specialists at hkendall@shoreline.edu and ktowns@shoreline.edu (you may email one or both) to schedule an appointment.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What does it mean to be a full-time student?
2. Can I work while I am a student?
Rule 6: Vacation/Reduced Course Load

To take less than 12 credits, you must be approved by IE advisor or F-1 Specialist BEFORE you reduce course load.
Annual Vacation

Vacation

• Take no class, less than 12 credits, or take many online classes

Eligibility:

• After you complete 3 full-time quarters
• First summer quarter if you start in winter (complete 2 quarters) or spring (complete 1 quarter)
Annual Vacation

Vacation Quarter Request due:

• Registration week through the 1st day of the quarter
Reduced Course Load (Academic Reason)

IE Academic Advisor approval required.

- Last quarter to complete degree
- Other academic reasons (e.g. improper placement)
- Concurrent Enrollment
Reduced Course Load (Medical Reason)

Documentation from a U.S. licensed healthcare provider (Medical Doctor, Doctor of Osteopathy, or Clinical Psychologist) is required.

Do not reduce course load until approved by a DSO.
Rule 7: Travel

• Proper documents are required to enter the U.S.
• Check documents before you leave the U.S. including a day trip to Canada
I-20

- Valid signature is required to enter the U.S.
- Must be signed by a Designated School Official from Shoreline (IE advisor, F-1 Specialist)
- Signature should be less than 6 months old
• Passport should be valid a minimum of 6 months into the future at the time of entry
Visa

To enter in F-1 status, it needs to be valid at the time of U.S. entry.
What happens if my visa expired?

Visa in your passport is like a key to open a door, it must be valid to enter the U.S.

Already in the U.S.
• CAN stay in the U.S. after visa expiration date

Outside of the U.S.
• Need a new visa (new key to open the door)
I-94 Arrival/Departure Record

Most Recent I-94

Admission (I-94) Record Number: 51415565885
Most Recent Date of Entry: 2023 SEP 18
Class of Admission: F1
Admit Until Date: D/S
Details provided on the I-94 Information form:

- Last/Surname:
- First (Given) Name:
- Birth Date:
- Passport Number:
- Country of Issuance: China

Immigration status (F-1)
Authorized period of stay (indicated by "D/S", meaning "duration of status").
I-94 Arrival / Departure Record

Go to https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94

Need this form for:

- Keep your correct travel record
- Apply for WA State ID card, Driver License, Social Security Number, and Optional Practical Training
Rule 8: Changing Schools

• Notify Shoreline when Transferring to another school in the U.S.

• Submit the SEVIS Transfer-Out Request form

• Proof of acceptance from the new school is required
Rule 9: Leave of Absence or Withdrawal

Cannot continue study and need to go back home

1. Talk to an advisor or F-1 Specialist about your situation before you leave the U.S.
2. Submit the Withdrawal / Leave of Absence Form
3. SEVIS (I-20) record will be terminated
4. Must leave the U.S. within 15 days
Rule 10: Financial Responsibility

Pay tuition and fees by the Payment Due Date

What Happens If I Don’t Pay?

- Dropped from classes/Blocked from registration
- Cannot maintain F-1 Enrollment Requirement
- Cannot maintain F-1 Status
- SEVIS Termination (Out of Status)
Rule 11: Employment

**CAN** work on-campus at Shoreline

- Must not exceed total of 20 hours a week while school is in session
- May work on campus full-time when school is not in session or during the annual vacation
Rule 11: Employment

CANNOT accept any job that is off-campus
I-20 and Education Levels
Type of I-20 Documents
**English as a Second Language (ESL)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>Language Training</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program English Proficiency</td>
<td>Not Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAJOR 1</td>
<td>Second Language Learning 32.0109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAJOR 2</td>
<td>None 00.0000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Proficiency Notes</td>
<td>English proficiency is not required for admission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earliest Admission Date</td>
<td>18 August 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start of Classes</td>
<td>26 September 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Start/End Date</td>
<td>17 September 2018 - 31 March 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Education Level** – Language Training
- **No submission of English assessment tests such as TOEFL or IELTS at the time of application**
- **Placed into ESL 10, 20, 50, 60, or 70 based on English Placement Test at orientation**
• Education Level – **Other: Pathway Program**
• Submitted an English assessment test score that meets proficiency requirements for EAP
• Placed into EAP 80, 90, or 99 based on English Placement Test at orientation
• Completed ESL 70
• Education Level – **Associate**
• Major 1 – **Liberal Arts and Sciences** (or Physical Sciences)
• Submitted English Assessment test scores that meets requirement for ESL and EAP exemption
• Placed in English 101 or higher based on English Placement Test at the orientation
• Completed EAP090 or EAP099
Common Questions
No I-20 Signature?

What do I do if...

- Travel signature has expired or no signature
- Lost or forgot I-20

In home country:
- Contact F-1 Specialist as soon as possible

At airport or on a plane:
- Follow instructions the Customs Officer gives you
Form I-515A

You may receive this if you arrive at a U.S. port of entry and do not have all your required documents:

- Your stay in the U.S. is limited to 30 days
- See an F-1 Specialist as soon as possible for help to extend your stay
Lost or Stolen Passport?

• Go to the local police and report to them that you've lost your passport
• Contact your Embassy or Consulate for more information about replacing a lost or stolen passport
What happens if I Break One of the Rules?

Break rules ➔ SEVIS (I-20) record may be terminated

• In the U.S. – must leave the U.S. immediately
• Outside of the U.S.
  • Cannot enter the U.S. - may be denied entry
How do I know if my SEVIS (I-20) is Terminated?

- Check your grades
  - Did you receive N, W, or Z grade? If your final enrollment status is below 12 credits, your SEVIS will be terminated.

- Check your email regularly!
  - You will receive email when your record is terminated.
How can I Fix my Status?

• Contact an F-1 Specialist
• Discuss options for fixing your status
• You need a new SEVIS I-20 to enter the U.S. if you are outside of the U.S.
F-1 students may be eligible to apply for some scholarships (e.g. merit-based scholarships).
Am I Allowed to Apply for Public Benefits?

F-1 students are not eligible to apply for public benefits.
What happens if I break a driving law?

MUST FOLLOW ALL RULES and DO NOT DRINK and DRIVE!!

• DUI (Driving Under the Influence)
• DWI (Driving While Intoxicated)

If you get a DUI or DWI your visa will be revoked

See International Education if you have questions
Remember…

It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to stay in-status!
• Understand and follow the immigration rules
• Ask International Education if you have questions – **DO NOT ASK YOUR FRIENDS**
• Make sure to adjust setting so you can receive email from IE staff in your inbox
• Check your email often and read emails from International Education
Resources

Immigration Home Page https://www.shoreline.edu/international/immigration/default.aspx

In-Person Immigration Walk-in Hours
In-person Immigration Walk-in is available Mondays to Thursdays from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please check in at 9302 International Education front desk. For Zoom options, see instructions below to schedule an appointment via Starfish.

Schedule an Appointment
Current students
Currently enrolled students should log into Starfish with your Shoreline Network Account username and password and schedule an appointment with one of the F-1 Specialists.
- How to login to Starfish
- How to schedule an appointment in Starfish

Students Not Currently Enrolled in a Class
Students who have not enrolled in classes in one or more quarters for the academic year may not be able to schedule an appointment via Starfish.

Forms
- Vacation Request Form
- Reduced Course Load Request Form (Academic Condition)
- Reduced Course Load Request Form (Medical Condition)
- I-20 Request Forms
- Replacement or Travel Signature
- For College Level Students
- For ESL/EAP Level Students
- For Dependent
- For New SEVIS Record
We can Help You! Shoreline F-1 Specialists

Walk-in / Appointment / Email

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International Education

WELCOME TO SHORELINE!!