Immigration and F-1 Visa Information
Welcome to Shoreline Community College’s immigration and F-1 Visa Information Session. This session contains very important information for our F-1 international students. Please pay attention and take notes if you need to.
Overview

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

- Your electronic immigration record
- Pay I-901 SEVIS fee to Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)
- If you do not pay, your record will be terminated
Who has access to your SEVIS record?

- **School**
- **SEVP** - Student and Exchange Visitor Program
- **ICE** - Immigration & Customs Enforcement
- **CBP** - Customs & Border Protection
- **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 Shoreline
2. Shoreline issues you your new I-20
3. If you are not sure, see us in the International Education Department
SEVIS Status

• Active = In-Status
  – Following the F-1 rules and allowed to legally stay in the U.S.
SEVIS Status

• Terminated = Out of Status
  • Violated one or more of the F-1 rules and not allowed to legally stay in the U.S.

Status: TERMINATED
Status Change Date: March 19
SEVIS ID:

I-20 ISSUE REASON: CONTINUED ATTENDANCE
TERMINATION REASON: UNAUTHORIZED DROP BELOW FULL COURSE
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 time
Lost Passport?

• Contact your Embassy or Consulate for more information about replacing a lost or stolen passport
Passport: Admission Stamp

- **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: Do Not let your I-20 Expire!

See an academic advisor if you need extend the date
Understand your I-20

Check program start and end date

Make sure to sign

Your SEVIS number

F-1

Academic and Language
Travel Signature

• Must be signed by a Designated School Official from Shoreline (IE advisor, F-1 Specialist)
• Signature should be less than 6 months old
Type of I-20 Documents
### English as a Second Language (ESL)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program of Study</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education Level</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Program English Proficiency</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Major 1</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Major 2</strong></td>
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<td><strong>English Proficiency Notes</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Earliest Admission Date</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Start of Classes</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Program Start/End Date</strong></td>
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- **Education Level** – **Language Training**
- No submission of English assessment tests such as TOEFL or IELTS at the time of application
- Placed in to ESL 10, 20, 50, 60, or 70 based on English Placement Test at orientation
English for Academic Purpose (EAP)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM OF STUDY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EDUCATION LEVEL</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OTHER: Pathway Program</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROGRAM ENGLISH PROFICIENCY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Required</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>START OF CLASSES</strong></td>
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- Education Level – **Other: Pathway Program**
- Submitted an English assessment test score that meets proficiency requirements for EAP
- Placed in to 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 EAP099
You need your I-94 number for:

- WA State ID card
- WA State Driver License
- Social Security Number
- Applying for Optional Practical Training
I-94 Record – Electronic

Go to https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94
You will get a paper I-94 form if you enter the U.S. from Canada or Mexico (land boarder crossing)
Rule 3: Be a Full-time Student

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

DO NOT Withdraw from or skip classes
Grading

If you get one of these grades on your transcript, it **DOES NOT** count as attendance.

\[ \text{N (Audit)} \]
\[ \text{W (Authorized Withdrawal)} \]
\[ \text{V (Unauthorized Withdrawal)} \]
\[ \text{Z (Hardship Withdrawal)} \]
You participate in class but you **DO NOT** earn any credits.

I registered 15 credits. 5 credits are for the audit class.

You are in a trouble! You enrolled for only 10 credits!
Your instructor says it’s okay to drop the class, but you must still have at least 12 credits after you drop the class. You do not get the credits for classes that you drop.

This class is too difficult, so I want to drop it.
V: Unauthorized Withdrawal

To be awarded when a student attends briefly, rarely, or not at all and does not officially withdraw with W.
You do not get the credits for when you receive V grade.

I can go to the class, but I don’t.
Z: Hardship Withdrawal

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

Z grade does not count as enrollment, so you must still have at least 12 credits after you drop the class.
Grading

If you get one of these grades on your transcript, it **DOES NOT** count toward the total credits enrolled.

- **N** (Audit)
- **W** (Authorized Withdrawal)
- **V** (Unauthorized Withdrawal)
- **Z** (Hardship Withdrawal)
Rule 4: Online Class Limit

Regular Quarter

• You cannot take more than 1 online class per quarter.

• If you want more than 1 online class, you must meet your advisor to get permission.
Rule 4: Online Class Limit Exception

Vacation Quarter

• You can take as many online classes as you want.
Rule 5: Address Change

• Submit the International Student Change of Contact information Form to the front desk at the International Education **Within 10 DAYS**
Rule 5: Address Change

Submit this paper form

Don’t submit the online form
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

• Eligible after you complete 3 full-time quarters at Shoreline
• If you only complete 1 or 2 quarters before your first summer quarter in the U.S., you may take the summer quarter as your vacation
• This rule does not apply to transfer-in students
Reduced Course Load (RCL)

- Medical condition (documentation required)
- Last quarter to complete degree (degree audit required)
- Other academic reasons – must be approved by IE advisor

See your advisor or an F-1 specialist if you need to request an RCL before reducing course load
Rule 7: Leave of Absence or Withdrawal

- **Leave of Absence**
  - Not eligible for vacation
  - Need to go back home
  - Plan to come back to Shoreline

- **Withdrawal**
  - Do not plan to come back to Shoreline
Rule 7: Leave of Absence or Withdrawal

1. Talk to an advisor or F-1 Specialist about your situation
2. SEVIS (I-20) record will be terminated
3. Must leave the U.S. within 15 days
Rule 8: Transfer-Out

• Transfer to another school in the U.S. if transfer eligibility is met

• Submit the Transfer-Out Request form with a proof of acceptance from the school to International Education
Rule 9: Do Not Work Off Campus!

• **CANNOT** accept any job that is off-campus

• **CAN** work on-campus at Shoreline Community College
  International Student Leader, International Student Ambassador, Tutor, Lab Aid, etc.
Common Questions
I-20 and Traveling

What do I do if...

• Travel signature on my I-20 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 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 a help to extend your stay
What happens if my visa foil expired?

Visa foil is like a key to open a door, which must be valid when enter the U.S.

Already in the U.S.
- **CAN** stay in the U.S. with expired visa foil

Outside of the U.S.
- **Need** a new Visa (new key to open the door)
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, V, or Z grade? If your final enrollment status is below 12 credits, your SEVIS will be terminated.

• Check your college email (@go.shoreline.edu) 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.
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.
Immigration

To make an appointment to meet with an F-1 immigration specialist, contact the front desk by email at iefrontdesk@shoreline.edu, by phone at 206-546-4697, or come to the IE office in 9302.

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?

Helpful Links

- Transfer Out Request Form (University)
- Transfer Out Request Form (Other)
- Reduced Course Load / Vacation Request Form
- Withdrawal / Leave of Absence Form
- F-1 Status Change Notification Form
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**
- Check your college email @go.shoreline often and read emails from International Education
We can Help You!

International Education PUB 9000

Appointment
• Ask front desk

Walk-in
• Monday – Thursday
• 10:30 am – 11:30 am
• 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Meet Shoreline F-1 Specialists

Harumi Kendall  
206-546-4676  
hkendall@shoreline.edu

Kris Towns-von Stauber  
206-546-5890  
ktowns@shoreline.edu