Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) is an online database that allows USCIS and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to assist all international students.
* Maintain a valid passport at all times while in the U.S..
* Renew prior to expiration (6 months ahead).
* Contact your home country consulate or embassy in the U.S. for renewal information.
Old I-94 Cards

Your Arrival – Departure Record.
D/S which means “Duration of Status” (including 60 days grace period).

The new I-94 can now be obtained at: https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/request.html
I-20 and DS-2019s

- It should always be valid.
- Renew it prior to expiration (at least three months ahead).
- Must reflect current and accurate information.
- Have it endorsed for travel outside of US
Visa

- A visa is only a permit to enter the United States.
- May expire while in the U.S. as long as you are maintaining status.
- You must make sure that your visa is valid for your entry or re-entry.
Maintenance of status

Documents should always be valid. Renew prior to expiration.

- Passport (6 months ahead) (expired visa- no problem)
- I-20 (2 months ahead)

Maintain academic progress

- Undergraduate: 12 units each semester and 2.0 GPA
- Graduate: 6-9 units each semester and 3.0 GPA
- Travel Signature on I-20*
- *Required for continuing students if traveling outside of the US
- Request at prior to departure
Part-time status: Allowed in special cases

Always obtain authorization

- Medical
- First semester-language problems
- Improper course level placement
- Last semester-remaining coursework

However, what if classes are full or not offered?
Maintenance of status

A leave of absence: **Always** obtain authorization

- Medical, family, personal, financial, etc.
- If possible, plan and inform prior to beginning of semester
- Provide documentation to support request
  - e.g. Doctor’s letter
- You may remain in the U.S. for medical reasons for one semester.
- If taking a leave for personal reasons, you will be required to leave the US and return to home country
- I-20 will be terminated and new I-20 issued for return.
On Campus: Enroll full-time

- Find a job
- Maintain grades/GPA once you are a continuing student
- Obtain work authorization from IA:
  - Social Security Number (SSN)
  - I-9
- Renew authorization prior to expiration
Off Campus:

- IMPORTANT! Should be in F-1 status for one full academic year

**Economic Hardship:**
- Meet with Foreign Student Advisor
- Provide documentation of hardship e.g.: Letter from Financial Sponsor
- Obtain recommendation from IESC
- Mail application to USCIS

**Curricular Practical Training (CPT)**
- Obtain Internship opportunity (job offer)
- Obtain authorization from IESC
- Dates coincide with start and end dates of classes (if it is linked to a class).
Off Campus:

- **IMPORTANT! Must have been in F-1 status for one full academic year**
- **Optional Practical Training (OPT)**
  - Attend workshop and begin process at beginning of final semester
  - Must have met ALL graduation requirements
  - Obtain recommendation from IESC
  - Mail application to USCIS
  - You remain an F-1 student so requirements for health insurance and travel signatures still apply!
  - STEM programs eligible for a 1 time 17-month extension (total of eligibility of up to 29 months).
Completion of Studies - Completion of your Degree Program

- You complete all coursework
- Obtain your degree
- You complete OPT
- You have 60 days to
  - a – Transfer to another school
  - b – Return home
  - c – Change of Status
Conclusion:

What you should remember…

✓ Remember, you are responsible for maintaining your immigration status.
✓ Check the end date of your I-20 and notify IA 2 months prior to ending date for approved extension.
✓ Full-time study requirement
✓ Travel documents
✓ Employment authorization needed for any off-campus job
✓ Come to IA for any questions or concerns you may have
✓ Immigration regulations are serious but don’t panic, we are here to help you.
Suggestions:

What you should remember…

✓ Always ask questions if you do not understand; there are no dumb questions
✓ Don’t be afraid to ask for help
✓ Not knowing is not an acceptable excuse
✓ Adapt and learn how things are done (not necessarily why they are done)
✓ Being international is not a reason for addition time on an examination
✓ Be Brave
✓ Study, Learn and Enjoy