

SEVP Updates (April 2021)

Summary

- SEVP will not change its policy guidance issued in March 2020 for the 2021/2022 academic year.
- F-1 students who were studying in the US full time on March 9, 2020 and have maintained full-time student status are allowed to take courses entirely online to maintain their F-1 status. Students who were not taking classes full-time in the U.S. on March 9, 2020 **must take some hybrid/face-to-face classes to maintain F1 status.**
- Continuing F-1 students outside the US must take online classes *full-time* **to maintain F1 status.**
- F-1 students outside the US may take classes part-time or take the semester off, but they will be required to pay the SEVIS fee again to return to the US in the future.

What you must do if you are a continuing student staying in the US for the Fall 2021 semester

- You must report to the International Office about your plan to remain in the US (take the survey emailed to you).
- You must enroll in a minimum of 12 units for the Fall 2021 term to maintain your F-1 status.
- Unless you were a full-time student in the U.S. on March 9, 2020 and have maintained status, you must take some hybrid/face-to-face classes.

What you must do if you are a continuing student currently in your home country, but will be returning for the Fall 2021 semester

- You need to report to the International Office about your plan to return to the US for the Fall 2021 semester.
- If you have maintained full-time student status, make sure that there are no changes with your I-20 form and check if the travel endorsement is given which is not expired (one signature lasts one year). If your I-20 form does not have the travel endorsement