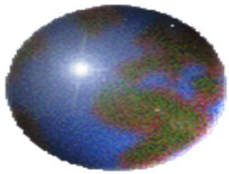




Studying in the USA Legally



*Your Responsibilities to
Stay Legal*

2025-2026

As you go through the immigration inspection area at the airport, you will be given a status according to the type of your visa. Since you will use the F-1 (student) visa, you will be given F-1 visa status as you enter the U.S.

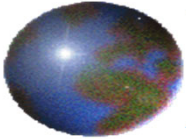


U.S. Department of Justice

**Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Grant (F-1) Student
Status - For Academic and Language Students (CIRN NO. 1657-0078)**

Please read Instructions on Page 2.
This page must be completed and signed in the U.S. by a designated school official.

1. Name of country _____ Country given Name M & P Name : _____ Country of birth _____ DOB (MM/DD/YYYY day year) Country of citizenship _____ Admission number _____		For Immigration Official Use	SEVIS ID# _____
2. School information: School name: _____ School address (include zip code): _____ School Official to be notified of student's arrival in U.S.: Name and Title: _____ _____ _____ Date: MM/DD/YYYY School order (including 3-digit suffix, if any) and approval date: _____/_____/_____- /YY/MM/DD-_____/_____/_____-		Visa Issuing post _____ Visa No./Issued _____	
3. This certificate is issued to the student named above for: Initial attendance at this school _____. Level of education the student is pursuing or will pursue in the United States: Associate _____ This school has information showing the following as the student's means of support, estimated for an academic term of _____ months (Use the same number of months given in item 7). a. Student's personal funds \$ _____ b. Funds from this school \$ _____ c. Funds from another source \$ _____ d. On-campus employment \$ _____ Total \$ _____		R. Remarks: _____ _____	
4. English proficiency: The student requires English proof entry. The student does not require English proof entry.			
5. This school estimates the student's average costs for an academic term of _____ (up to 12) months to be: a. Tuition and fees \$ _____ b. Living expenses \$ _____ c. Expenses of dependents (if g) \$ _____ d. Other (specify) _____ Total \$ _____			
6. School Certification: I certify under penalty of perjury that all information provided above in items 1 through 9 was completed before I signed this form and is true and correct. I expect this form in the United States after review and evaluation in the United States by me or other officials of the school of the student's application, transcripts, or other records of courses taken and proof of financial responsibility, which were received at the school prior to the execution of this form; the schools has determined that the above named student's qualifications meet all standards for admission to the school; the student will be required to pursue a full course of study as defined by 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6); I am a designated official of the above named school and am authorized to issue this form. Name of Signatory _____ Signature of Designated School Official _____ Title _____ Date Issued _____ Place Issued (city and state)			
7. Student Certificate: I have read and agreed to comply with the terms and conditions of my admission and those of any extension of stay as specified on pages in this certificate that all information provided on this form refers specifically to and is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I certify that I seek to enter or remain in the United States temporarily, and solely for the purpose of pursuing a full course of study at the school named upon this form. I also authorize the named school to release any information from my records which is needed by the INS pursuant to 8 CFR 214.3(g) to determine my nonimmigrant status.			
Name of Student _____	Signature of Student _____		Date _____
Name of parent or guardian _____	Signature of parent or guardian _____		(State or Province) (County) (Date)
Form D-215-A-G (Rev. 01-27-2013)			



Requirements to stay Legal

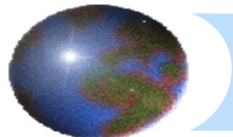
Complete 12 units
each semester

unexpired passport



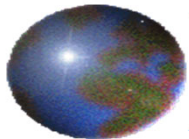
Valid I-20 form

No unauthorized employment!!



Falling out of Your Visa Status (become illegal)





Losing F-1 visa status

(becoming an illegal alien – don't do)

Completed Units < 12

Staying at the school with an **expired I-20 form**

Studying at a school **without an appropriate I-20**

Staying in the U.S. for longer than permitted

Engaging in an **unauthorized employment**

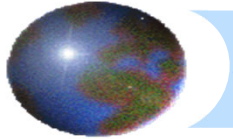


I20 Start Date

The image shows a portion of an I-20 form. A red circle highlights the 'I20 Start Date' field, which contains the date '06/01/2003'. Other visible text includes 'Accepted for a full course of study at this school no later than 06/01/2003', 'The normal length of', 'English proficiency', 'page costs for an academic term of', and '9. Remuneration'.

Overstay Policy
Over 180: 3 years
Over 1 year: 10 years

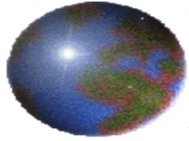




SEVIS (F-1) Regulation-summary


Major Issues

- ✦ Change of Physical Address, Name, or Major
 - ✦ Distance Education
 - ✦ Reduced Course Load
 - ✦ Program Extension
- ✦ Reinstatement to Status (to get back into F-1 visa status)
 - ✦ Transfer Process
 - ✦ Authorized Employment
 - ✦ Grade Period
 - ✦ F-2 Dependents



Change of Address, Legal Name, and Major (field of your study) Notify the office within 10 days of the change



 **PRE- ENGINEERING**
CHANGE OF MAJOR

Are you a current Pre-Engineering student enrolled in MATH 1411 or higher?

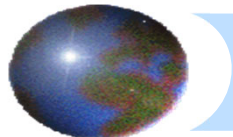
Submit a **CHANGE OF MAJOR FORM** no later than October 15

Form can be found at the
Pre Engineering office Room E226
or online:
<http://engineering.utep.edu/plaza/AcademicForms/index.html>

Contact us:
747- 5460
pree@utep.edu



**New I-20
with new Major**



Distance Education



No more than 3 semester units of online courses are counted towards the required 12 units to maintain F-1 status.

You must be enrolled in a minimum of 9 units of face-to-face classes before you can enroll in online classes.

ESL 101 (5)
Math 110 (4)
Art 100 (3)

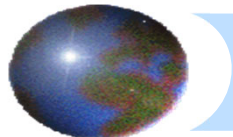


Good

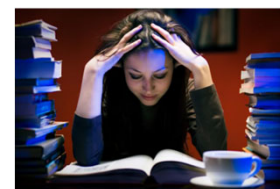
ESL 101 (5)
Math 110 (4)
Art 100 (3)



No Good



Reduced Course Load (RCL) Approval

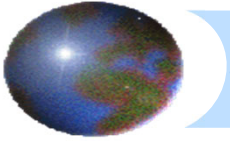


1. Academic Difficulties
During the first semester only



2. Medical Condition **For 12 calendar months**

3. Completion of course of study



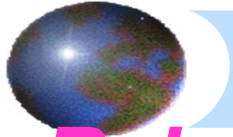
Extension of Program

Expiration of I-20 = Termination of your SEVIS record = your stay will become **ILLEGAL**

1. Remember when your I-20 expires.
2. Apply for program extension if additional semester is needed.

Eligibility

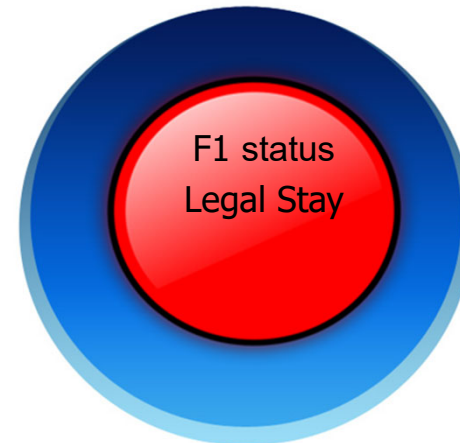
- Be legal (active SEVIS record)
- Good academic standing



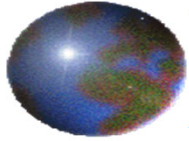
Reinstatement to Status (RTS) – *getting back in to F1 visa status*

Eligibility to apply for RTS

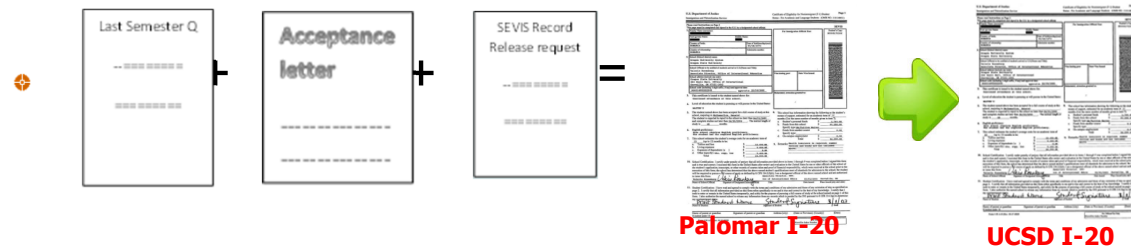
- ✦ Out of status < 5 months
- ✦ No repeated violation
- ✦ Enroll full-time immediately
- ✦ No unauthorized employment



Note that the immigration regulations and policies have become very strict.



Transfer Process

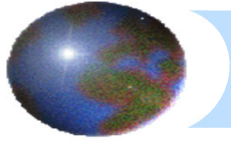


Complete the Process and get a New I-20 within

60 days.

Notify the Office of International Education your intention to transfer

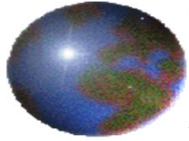
- ✦ Acceptance letter
- ✦ SEVIS release request form
- ✦ Last semester questionnaire
- ✦ Transfer process must be completed within **60 days from the last day of attendance at the current school**
- ✦ Report to the new school by the date indicated on the new I-20 form



Authorized Employment

- ✚ Practical Training
- ✚ Curricular Practical Training
- ✚ On-campus Employment
- ✚ Off-campus Employment with Approval – Economic Hardship





On-Campus Employment



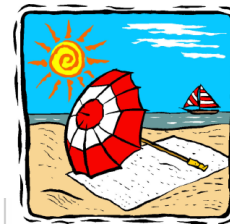
> **one year**



A student employment position at Palomar
College



20 hours



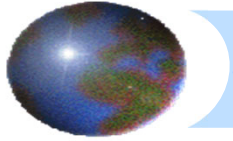
40 hours



Limited student job position

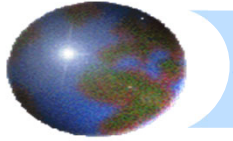
JOB

**Do not count on
Employment**



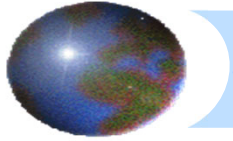
Off-Campus Employment Optional Practical Training

- ✦ Employment Opportunity to work in the field you completed (employment must be related to your major)
- ✦ Eligibility – after 9 months in F1 status
- ✦ Up to 20 (Part-time) or 40 hours a week (full-time)
- ✦ Must have DHS approval
- ✦ File form I-765 (DHS document), \$410 application fee



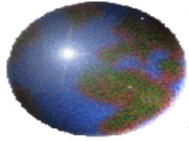
Off-Campus Employment Curricular Practical Training

- ✦ Employment Opportunity to work in the field you completed (employment must be related to your major)
- ✦ Eligibility: student's major must require internship (Cooperative Education 100, 150)
- ✦ Eligibility – after 9 months in F1 status
- ✦ Up to 20 hours/week
- ✦ DHS Approval not Required
- ✦ Approval from Office of International Education is required



Off-Campus Employment Under Economic Hardship

- ⊕ Eligibility – after 9 months in F1 status
- ⊕ Unforeseeable financial hardship
 - ⊕ Drastic change of foreign currency exchange rate
 - ⊕ Sponsor lost his/her job
 - ⊕ Nationwide Financial Crisis in the home country



Grace Period for Departure from U.S.



Certificate/AA/AS

60 days



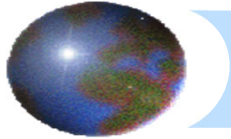
Non-completion

15 days

Failure to enroll (without notice to the office)



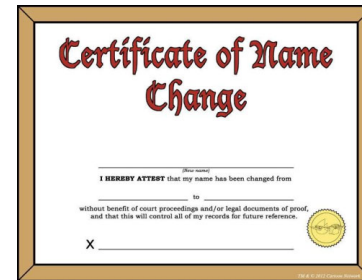
0 (ZERO) GRACE PERIOD



Reportable Items

✦ Semester Reports

- ✦ Last day of the semester
- ✦ Start date of next semester
- ✦ Current address
- ✦ Unit > 12

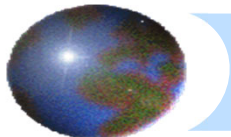


✦ Changes in legal name, local address, or major



10days





Reportable Items – cont.

Other student information



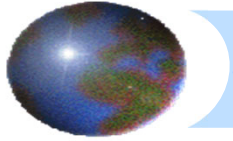
- ❖ Failure to maintain status
- ❖ Early Graduation
- ❖ Disciplinary Action taken by the college
- ❖ Any notification request made by SEVIS with respect to the current status of the student



The image shows a Canadian passport page. At the top left, there is a pink circular seal with the word "CANADA" and "PASSPORT". To its right, the word "CANADA" is printed in large letters. Below the seal, the text "SPECIMEN PASSPORT IS NOT VALID" is visible. The passport number "VK909834" is printed in the top right corner. The name "SPECTER VALERIE" is printed below the name field. The date of birth "08 OCT 71" and place of birth "JATANA TAN HULL" are also visible. A photograph of a woman is shown on the left side. The bottom of the page features a machine-readable zone with alphanumeric characters.

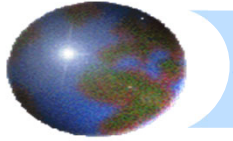
Travel signature (I-20)

[illegible]



Your Requirement as an International Student at Palomar College

- *Continuous insurance coverage
- *Your new email address to office
- *Address change **within 10 days**
- *Change of major – **New I-20 form**
 - *Full time-12 units (9 units on campus)
 - * Educational plan
- ***Read** messages coming from the OIE.



Final Words from
the International Student Office

Remember that it is **YOUR responsibility**
to maintain your F-1 visa status.

If you don't know, **don't ask your
friends**, but ask the Office of International
Education staff