



Office of International Education

Maintaining F-1 Status Reminders

The following are the student's responsibilities; failure to follow these regulations usually results in termination of student's SEVIS record:

- Report to the DSO to have his or her SEVIS record Registered in SEVIS within 15 days after the program start date (for new students) and after the next session start date for each semester thereafter (for continuing students).
- For the first time entry for initial school attendance, the school listed on the visa and on the I-20 must be the same, and that is the school the student must attend.
- Pursue a "full course of study" at the school listed on the currently valid Form I-20 during every academic session or semester except during official school breaks, or unless approved under a specific exception, in advance, by the DSO. Full-time status is defined as a minimum of 12 credits, which is equal to 3 units at Roanoke College.
- Make normal progress towards completing the course of study, by completing studies before the expiration of the program completion date on Form I-20. If extension is needed, it may be granted by DSO only under certain SEVIS-approved circumstances.
- Keep Form I-20 valid by following proper procedures for extension of stay. This must be pre-approved by DSO, before current I-20 end date, and must meet one of the SEVIS-approved circumstances for qualified extension.
- Keep Form I-20 valid by following proper procedures for change in educational levels or programs of study (i.e. from undergraduate to graduate level).
- Keep Form I-20 valid by following proper procedures for transfer to a new school.
- Abide by the F-1 grace period rules
- Report a change of address to the DSO within 10 days of the change, so that SEVIS can be updated.
- Abide by rules requiring reporting of information and prohibition on criminal activity.
- Abide by any special requirements, such as Special Registration requirements (only applies to certain students)
- May work on campus up to 20 hours per week when school is in session and full-time during vacation breaks when classes are not in session.
- Do not work off-campus for any type of compensation (pay or in exchange for room, board, etc.) unless specifically authorized under the regulations by the DSO or U.S. government.
- Academic internships, paid or unpaid, that are in your field of study, are required for degree completion, and for which you are receiving credit are considered curricular practical training (CPT); these require approval by DSO, updates to your SEVIS record, and a new I-20 issued for CPT work authorization.
- Abide by the aggregate 90-day unemployment rules while on post-completion optional practical training (OPT).
- Keep passport valid for 6 months into the future.

