

MAINTAINING NON-IMMIGRANT, STUDENT VISA STATUS

It's important to you and the Multicultural/International Advisors at HTC, that you attain your educational objectives while pursuing your studies. Although your priority is meeting your educational goals, it's also important that you be aware of and have access to information concerning your F-1 visa status. Failure to adhere to federal visa regulations and SEVIS requirements could result in the loss of your legal status and your inability to remain in the United States to complete your program of study. This document contains information regarding SEVIS requirements, enrollment, employment, and travel/reentry, etc. You may also discuss your visa questions/concerns with one of our Multicultural/International Advisors. For more information visit: <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/SEVISFactSheet.htm>

To maintain your non-immigrant status:

- 12 credit hrs- undergraduate, 9 credit hrs- graduate
- Only 3 credit hrs online/distance learning classes may be applied towards full-time requirement per semester
- Maintain a valid passport at all times
 - Passport renewals or replacement while in the U.S. is processed through your country's embassy.
- The VISA stamp in your passport, on the other hand, has the function of an entry ticket into the USA and does not need to be valid while you are in the USA.
 - Visa renewal is done outside the U.S. only.
- Maintain a valid SEVIS form I-20 or DS-2019 at all times
 - Pay close attention to program limit on your SEVIS form I-20 or DS-2019; ask for extension BEFORE your immigration document expires. Processing times apply, so please plan accordingly.
 - SEVIS form I-20/DS-2019 must reflect correct major and level of study.
 - Keep all copies of your SEVIS form I-20/DS-2019 indefinitely.
- I-94 is a small white card which is usually stapled to the visa page in your passport
 - The date to which you have been authorized to remain in the U.S. is recorded on your I-94 card.
 - The I-94 cards of persons holding F status will usually be marked D/S or Duration of Status.

Grace period of status

Immigration regulations allow for a limited grace period in which you may remain in the U.S.

- 60 days – completed course of study and after Optional Practical Training (OPT) for F-1
- 15 days – terminated course of study before completion authorized by the Designated School Official (DSO)
- 0 day – terminated course of study without DSO Approval