

## Summary of SEVP July 6 Broadcast Message: COVID-19 and Fall 2020<sup>1</sup>

Guidance: <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/bcm2007-01.pdf>

FAQ: [https://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/sevisFall2020\\_FAQ.pdf](https://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/sevisFall2020_FAQ.pdf)

University Course Offering Model	Online Credits Allowed?	Presence in U.S.?	Notes
Hybrid Model (Online & In-Person Course Offerings)	<p>More than 1 class/3 credit hours permitted.</p> <p>Unclear how many courses are required to maintain active status.</p>	Yes	<p>Schools must certify to SEVP (Form I-20)*:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) program is not entirely online</li> <li>2) student is not taking an entirely online course load for fall 2020</li> <li>3) student is taking the minimum number of online classes required to make normal progress in their degree.</li> </ol> <p><i>Exemptions do not apply to F-1s in English training programs. M-1s not permitted to enroll in online courses.</i></p> <p>If a school changes operational status mid-semester and international students switch to online-only classes or change their course selections, international students would not be in status and would need to leave the country or transfer to a school with in-person instruction.</p> <p>Continuing F and M students already in the U.S. may remain in active status if they are making normal degree progress or engaged in approved OPT.</p>
Normal In-Person	1 class/3 credit hours permitted	Yes	<p>Existing regulations apply.</p> <p>If a school changes operational status mid-semester and international students switch to online-only classes or change their course selections, international students would not be in status and would need to leave the country or transfer to a school with in-person instruction.</p> <p>Continuing F and M students already in the U.S. may remain in active status if they are making normal degree progress or engaged in approved OPT.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Awaiting regulation to be published in the Federal Register as a temporary final regulation.

University Course Offering Model	Online Credits Allowed?	Presence in U.S.?	Notes
Entirely Online	Yes	No	<p>Only students enrolled at a school only offering online coursework can engage in remote learning from their home country.</p> <p>Continuing F and M students outside the U.S. may remain in active status if they are taking online courses and able to meet the normal full course of study requirements or requirements for a reduced course of study. Only students enrolled at a school that is online-only.</p> <p>DSOs should annotate a student's record to make clear they are outside the U.S. but taking full time online courses as that is the only choice offered by the school.</p>
	No	Yes	<p>Visas will not be issued to students enrolled in schools/programs that are fully online for the fall.</p> <p>CBP will not permit online-only students to enter the U.S.</p> <p>Active students in U.S. enrolled in online-only programs must depart the country or transfer to a school with in-person instruction to remain in lawful status.</p>

*\*I-20 Requirements*

- I-20 records need to be updated for ALL active students; DSOs must issue new I-20s to each student and update SEVIS records.
- Changes must be made within 21 business days of publication (August 4, 2020).
- DSOs are asked to prioritize students who require new visas and are outside the country.

School Reporting & Procedural Requirements

- Operational change plans must be submitted no later than **July 15, 2020** (1) if a school is offering entirely online classes or programs for the fall 2020 semester, or (2) will not reopen for the fall 2020 semester.
- Operational change plans must be submitted no later than **August 1, 2020** if a school will not be entirely online and indicate whether they will be (1) solely in-person classes, (2) delayed or shortened sessions, or (3) a hybrid plan of in-person and remote classes. Plans should also be submitted within 10 calendar days.