

Change of Status: F-2 to F-1 Visa Type

There are two methods for changing your visa status:

1. Depart the USA and apply for an F-1 visa in your home country. This will require obtaining a new I-20 for your visa interview. This I-20 can be obtained by applying for admission from SUU. (Recommended)

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2. Apply for a change of status to F-1 status while remaining in the USA

Instructions listed below are for students wishing to stay in the United States while changing their status.

Eligibility

- Student applying for F-1 status must be in good standing
- Student who will be recognized as the F-1 principal must also be in good standing
- Must apply for admission to SUU or have previously attended as an F-2 visa holder
 - For instructions on the admission process, visit: <https://www.suu.edu/international/>
- Application Process for Students Remaining in the United States; Submitting form I-539
- **Apply for admission to SUU or change admission status with SUU**
 - Admission requirements can be found online: <https://www.suu.edu/international/>
 - Receive admission letter
 - Receive new I-20 and new SEVIS ID
 - Change your status from part-time or non-degree seeking to full-time degree-seeking
 - Receive new admission letter
 - Receive new I-20 and new SEVIS ID
- **Pay SEVIS I-901 Fee for new SEVIS ID**
 - Print a copy of the payment receipt
 - For instructions on payment, visit: www.fmjfee.com
- **Complete form I-539 (Application for Change of Nonimmigrant Status)**
 - Form I-539: <http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/i-539.pdf>
 - Instructions for form I-539: <http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/i-539instr.pdf>
- **Money Order or personal check**
 - \$370.00, made payable to: *US Department of Homeland Security* (Spell this out exactly as written)
- **Personal Statement** (optional)
 - Addressed to USCIS requesting your change of status and explaining why you entered the United States and why/how your circumstances have changed, thus requiring a new visa type.
- **Copies of your immigration documents:**
 - Newly obtained I-20
 - Passport and visa
 - I-94
 - To retrieve a copy of your I-94, visit: <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/>
- **Copies of Principal's immigration documents**
 - I-20
 - Passport and visa
 - I-94
 - To retrieve a copy of your I-94, visit: <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/>
- **Financial Documentation**
 - Same financial information used to obtain I-20 from SUU
- **Set an appointment with an SUU Designated School Official (DSO) to review your information**
- **Send completed application to:**

US Postal Service
USCIS
PO Box 660166
Dallas, TX 75266

Express Mail and Commercial Deliveries
USCIS
or ATTN: I-539
2501 S State Highway 121 Business Ste 400
Lewisville, TX 75067

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- Make copies of everything in your application packet before sending to USCIS.
- Use a receipt-based mailing option such as certified mail so there will be evidence that the documents were received by USCIS.

Processing may take between 1-6 months. For more information about this process, visit:

<http://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students/change-of-status>

E-Notification

Students interested in receiving a text or email from USCIS that their documents have been received may complete Form G-1145, E-Notification of Application/Petition Acceptance as the first page of their application.

- Download from G-1145 from: www.uscis.gov/g-1145

Please inform International Student & Scholar Services immediately after you have been notified of the outcome. Please provide copies of your I-20, I-797 (Approval Notice), and new I-94.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I begin studying before my F-1 visa is approved?

- No, approval for the change to F-1 must take place before beginning classes. An exception to this rule can be made for F-2 students who have recently completed secondary schooling.

What if my application to change to F-1 status is denied?

- This will require the applicant to leave the United States upon expiration of current status.

QUESTIONS

Please contact International Student & Scholar Services at (435)586-1995 or internationalaid@suu.edu if you have questions or need further information.