

F-1 Essentials for Staying in Status

Acronyms Used

DSO =	Designated School Official
SEVIS =	Student and Exchange Visitor Information System
INS =	Immigration and Naturalization Service
BCIS =	Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services

- Keep your passport valid at all times.
- Carry your I-94 at all times.
- Have a full time enrollment by the 10th day of classes every semester.
- Maintain and complete a full course of study each semester, excluding summer.
- Do not take more than one distance education or on-line course (maximum of 3 hours) per semester to fulfill full time enrollment requirements.
- Obtain approval from a DSO prior to withdrawing from a course that places you below full time for an allowable academic or medical reason.
- Get a new SEVIS I-20 for any change in program or degree level prior to the effective date of change.
- Report to the DSO within 15 days of the report date on your I-20.
- Report any change of name or address to the International Student Advisor and the Registrar's Office within 10 days of the change.
- Never work more than 20 hours per week on campus except during the summer or periods when school is not in session.
- Never work off-campus without prior approval from the International Student Advisor or INS/BCIS.
- Have your I-20 signed by a DSO (or request a new SEVIS I-20 if there has been a substantive change) before traveling out of the U.S. if you plan to return to continue your program at NECC.
- You must have a valid SEVIS I-20 if you are applying for a new visa.
- Don't let your I-20 expire (expiration date is in #5 of the I-20) if you have not yet completed your program.
- Keep all of your old original I-20s for your records.

There are almost always exceptions to the rules. See an International Student Advisor if you have ANY questions BEFORE you do something different.

REMEMBER ---- It is always easier to stay in status than to get back in status!