



DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Spring 2012

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES PROGRAM

WELCOME, SPRING SEMESTER F1 VISA STUDENTS!

The Division of Student Affairs hopes that returning and new students are balancing the demands of classes and are successful with navigating throughout CSU's campus. It is important to work hard while pursuing your educational goals, but don't forget to enjoy your experience, as well.



Please take the time needed to read through the information found within this newsletter. You will find pertinent facts that will assist you in remaining in compliance with Federal regulations as you achieve your academic goals.

ONLINE CLASSES

As we partake in the Age of Technology, we are also constantly being reminded of the degree programs that are offered online. Although it is easier now than ever before to enroll and complete courses of study online, please be aware of federal regulations that permit F1 students to only enroll in 3 credit hours per semester, which is equivalent to one 3 credit course.

Failure to comply with this regulation could result in termination of your SEVIS record and you will be forced to seek reinstatement.

FULL TIME ENROLLMENT AND SEVIS REPORTING

UNDERGRADUATE

It is extremely important for visa students to be enrolled full time at the beginning of each semester, having 12 credit hours, throughout the duration of your academic career at Coppin State University. SEVIS reporting begins each semester after the last day to drop or add classes and Visa students who are not enrolled full time will be terminated and will be required to seek reinstatement.

GRADUATE

Full time status is also required for students seeking a Master's degree. For graduate level students, a minimum of 9 credit hours each semester, during your academic career, satisfies full time status and meets federal regulations regarding F1 students.

TEMPORARY LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Without warning, family emergencies can occur, or maybe, a semester break from studies is needed. In either case, a meeting with your International Student Advisor is necessary.

DON'T JUST DISAPPEAR!

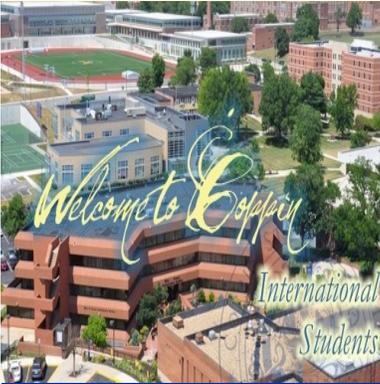
Be sure to notify the International Student Advisor of your intent to withdraw from any number of courses, the University or leave the United States for any reason. Failure to notify the International Student Services office of your intent to withdraw is a violation of F1 status. To begin, if you need to withdraw, you will need to fill out a Leave Form, that can be found on the website or in the ISS office, and submit it to the International Student Advisor.

Please be advised, If approved to leave the United States, that an absence of 5 months or more will require that you request a new I20 for initial entry before you can return to the United States. In this instance, it is important to keep the International Student Services office informed of your plans.

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS—INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES PROGRAM (ISSP)

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NAFSA CEO Sends Letter to President Obama Applauding Change in Green Card Process

On January 10, 2012, NAFSA Executive Director and CEO Marlene M. Johnson sent a letter to President Obama thanking him for taking action to improve the process by which undocumented family members of American citizens can pursue legal residency.

The policy change, which was reported in the New York Times last week, makes it possible for parents and children of U.S. citizens who need to leave the United States to receive their green cards to apply for waivers of unlawful presence before departing, thus alleviating the prolonged separation times often experienced by these individuals as they wait in their home country for the visa to be processed.

PROGRAM EXTENSIONS

Maintaining your status and remaining in good academic standing is the first step to acquiring a program extension. If you are not able to complete your program of study by the program completion date that is printed on your SEVIS I-20, you can make an appointment to discuss obtaining an extension with the International Student Advisor and submitting a program extension form. Extensions are granted on an individual basis and reasons must be explained.

GETTING YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE OR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

One of the first things a new F1 student typically wants to do after entering the United States is get a driver's license or, where appropriate, a Social Security Number. Like many things, however, correct timing is everything. The Student and Exchange Visitor Program wants all F1 students eligible for a driver's license or an SSN to have the easiest experience possible. Following these six simple tips makes the process go much smoother and saves a lot of time in the end:



1. Wait 10 days after you arrive in the United States.
2. Know what you are applying for and if you are eligible.
3. Make sure your record in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) is up-to-date and in *Active* Status.
4. Check your forms.
5. Wait two days after your DSO activates your record in SEVIS
6. Take all your necessary paperwork.