

# College for Creative Studies

## International Student Orientation

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# International Student Services Office

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# Topics for Today:

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- Maintaining Lawful F-1 Status
- International Travel
- Employment

# F-1 Visa Status

F-1 is a non-immigrant visa status.

Non-immigrants admitted to the US on an F-1 visa are admitted for the purpose of pursuing a program of study.

Non-immigrant students must comply with the regulations of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and are monitored in SEVIS.



DETROIT WATERFRONT - WINTER



# F-1 Visa Status

## SEVIS: Student and Exchange Visitor Information System

The online system where DHS maintains information on Student and Exchange Visitor (SEVP)-approved institutions (like CCS) as well as non-immigrant students visiting the US to study in F-, M-, or J- status (like you!).



Detail of Detroit Skyline featuring Penobscot, 1 Detroit Center, Guardian, and 1 Woodward Ave buildings

# F-1 Visa Status

SEVIS maintains the same information that is displayed on your I-20.  
In addition, CCS is required to report the following information about you:

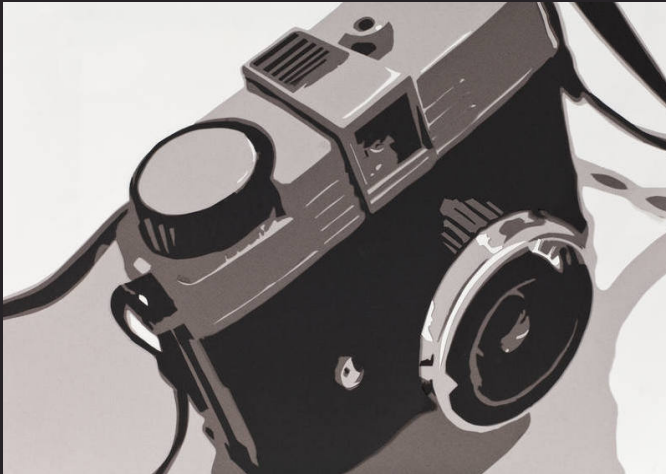
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Campus Martius, downtown Detroit, circa 1915

# F-1 Visa Status

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CCS student work from Foundations

- Full-time enrollment status
- Withdrawals below a full-time course load (without prior approval)
- Address and name changes
  - You are required to report address changes within 10 days of move
- Actions that affect your program of study
  - Change of major, program extension, transfer, graduation, etc.
- Off-campus employment authorizations



# F-1 Visa Status



## Terminology

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- United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS)  
An agency of DHS that regulates all matters pertaining to immigrants and non-resident aliens.
- United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (USICE)  
An agency of DHS that regulates the enforcement of immigration and customs law. USICE oversees SEVIS.
- Non-resident Alien  
a foreign-born person who is not a citizen or national of the US and who is temporarily admitted for a particular purpose. Most students on F- and J- visas are non-resident aliens.
- DSO  
A school official who can prepare and authorize USCIS documents, such as I-20s.

# F-1 Visa Status

## Home Address & Local Address

US regulations require that non-immigrants update their home and local addresses within 10 days of any change. Failure to do so is a direct violation of visa status.



CCS Ford Campus and Taubman Center

# F-1 Visa Status

## Full-time Enrollment

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During the academic year, F-1 students are required to maintain full-time enrollment.

Full-time enrollment is defined as a minimum of 12 credit hours for BFA students and 9 credit hours for MFA students.

Only one 3-credit hour course may be online – all others must be in-classroom.

You may make an official request for a Reduced Course Load (RCL) through the ISSO only if you are experiencing extreme circumstances such as a severe medical issue or family emergency.

# F-1 Visa Status

## Full-time Enrollment

A drop below full-time enrollment, without prior RCL approval, for any reason, is a direct violation of F-1 student status and will result in the termination of your I-20. You will have 15 days to depart the country.



1939 Chevrolet advertisement



# F-1 Visa Status

## Updates

As an international F-1 student, you must keep the ISSO updated regarding the following:

- Change of major/minor
- Addition of dependent
- Change in funding source
- Change of name
- Change of citizenship or residence
- Withdraw from studies
- Transfer to another school



Museum of Contemporary Art, Detroit

To update any of these items, please make an appointment at the ISSO.



# F-1 Visa Status

## Program Extension

If you find that you are unable to complete your degree by the end-date listed on your I-20, you will have to apply for an Extension of Program. You must do so at least 30 days ahead of your I-20 end-date, and you must meet the following criteria:

- Your F-1 status has been continually and lawfully maintained
- You have a compelling medical or academic reason that requires the extension of your program.



# Travel

International travel requires travel validation – your I-20 must be validated by a CCS DSO. This is a special “travel signature” on your I-20 which will grant you re-entry into the US.

If you travel outside the US (including Canada!) you must have the following: dates of travel.

- Valid passport
- Valid visa for re-entry
- Travel signature on your I-20

\*\*\*There are only three DSOs

at CCS so please plan to obtain your travel Signature well-ahead of your intended dates of travel.



CCS Student work from Transportation Design

# On-Campus Employment

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- With the exception of border-commuter students from Canada, F-1 students may work on campus.
- On-campus employment is defined as employment that is paid by CCS, and which takes place on campus.
- On-campus employment may not exceed 20 hours-per-week during the academic year, and 40 hours-per-week during summer vacation.
- Listings of on-campus jobs are managed by the Office of Financial Aid and can be found on the Financial Aid section of Blackboard.

# Off-Campus Employment

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- The only kinds of off-campus employment for which international students are eligible are CPT and OPT.
- International students must request authorization to do Curricular Practical Training (CPT) or Optional Practical Training (OPT).
- International students must meet with the ISSO before commencing any kind of off-campus employment in order to determine eligibility and to complete the CPT or OPT application process.



# Off-Campus Employment

- Unauthorized off-campus employment is a direct violation of F-1 student status and will result in the termination of your I-20.



# Off-Campus Employment

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- OPT employment generally occurs after the completion of the degree program.
- CPT employment generally takes place in the summer.
- OPT and CPT workshops are offered by the ISSO each term. All international students will receive invitations to attend OPT and CPT workshops in their CCS student email.

# Off-Campus Employment

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- CPT is defined as practical training that is an integral part of an established curriculum.

In other words, the employment must be directly related to a student's field of study.

- To be eligible for CPT, international students must have been enrolled for one academic year (two consecutive terms).

To learn more, please watch your CCS email for this fall term's first CPT workshop invitation!

# In Review

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The most important thing you can do as an international F-1 student at CCS is to **stay in touch with Katherine, Erin, and Francisco!**

If you are ever in doubt about anything, or if you are ever considering a change that will impact your academic standing or employment status, please take the time to let us know.

It is always better to take the time to talk things through before you make an irreversible decision – we are here to help and advise you!



Thank you

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The logo consists of a large yellow square above a smaller yellow rectangle, both centered.

COLLEGE *for* Creative STUDIES

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# And welcome to Detroit!

