

DATE: August 1, 2020
FROM: International Student Services, University of Arizona
SUBJECT: University of Arizona Operations & Electronic Form I-20 Issuance

University of Arizona Operations

For Fall 2020 semester, the University of Arizona will be operating in a hybrid model offering a combination of in-person, hybrid, and online courses. The Fall 2020 semester begins August 24, 2020 (with the exception of the Law College which begins on August 17, 2020).

Summary of March 2020 Guidance for Continuing Students

As stated in the March 2020 guidance, Active F and M students will be permitted to temporarily count online classes towards a full course of study in excess of the regulatory limits stated in 8 C.F.R. § 214.2(f)(6)(i)(G) and 8 C.F.R. § 214.2(m)(9)(v). The March 2020 guidance applies to continuing F and M nonimmigrant students who were in valid F-1 or M-1 nonimmigrant status on March 9, 2020, including those previously enrolled in entirely online classes who are outside of the United States and seeking to re-enter the country this fall. Students actively enrolled at a U.S. school on March 9, 2020, who subsequently took courses online while outside of the country can re-enter the United States, even if their school is engaged solely in distance learning.

Summary of March 2020 Guidance for Initial Students

In accordance with March 2020 guidance, F and M students in new or initial status after March 9, 2020, will not be able to enter the United States to enroll in a U.S. school as a nonimmigrant student for the fall term to pursue a full course of study that is 100 percent online. Also consistent with the [SEVP Broadcast Message dated March 9, 2020](#), designated school officials should not issue a Form I-20, "Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status," for a student in new or initial status who is outside of the United States and plans to take classes at an SEVP-certified educational institution that is operating 100 percent online.

Full ICE Guidance is posted at: <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/bcmFall2020guidance.pdf>

Electronic Form I-20 Issuance

If the student has an electronic Form I-20, it was digitally signed and emailed to the student following the guidance issued by the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) on March 26, 2020:

". . . due to COVID-19, DSOs may electronically send Forms I-20 to student email addresses listed in SEVIS. In the case of a minor students, the email address may belong to their parent or legal guardian. Schools do not need to request permission from SEVP or report their plans to electronically send Forms I-20 as part of their COVID-19 procedural changes."

Full ICE guidance is posted at: <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/bcm2003-03.pdf>

If you require additional information, please contact International Student Services at (520) 621-4627, or by email at intl-dso@email.arizona.edu.

