Message for F-1 students who will be enrolled at USF for Fall 2020

July has been the month of flip flopping immigration guidance. I am pleased to report that earlier today, Friday, July 24, 2020, SEVP/ICE provided clarifying information to institutions of higher education [https://www.ice.gov/coronavirus#wcm-survey-target-id](https://www.ice.gov/coronavirus#wcm-survey-target-id) with regard to Fall semester 2020.

USF students can stop stressing about their course schedules! SEVP/ICE has provided maximum flexibility to take your academic courses. There is no need to contact our office to ask about your schedule. See specifics below:

**F-1 student continuing studies at USF inside the US**

- You may select any combination of in-person and online courses as offered by your program during Fall 2020.
- You will keep your F-1 status and all the benefits that go with that status – even if the university transitions to all online courses.
- You must enroll full-time but can request a reduced course load for final semester or medical, if you qualify.
- New I-20s do not need to be issued.

**F-1 student continuing studies at USF outside the US**

- You may select all online courses during Fall 2020.
- You will keep your F-1 status and all the benefits that go with that status.
- You must enroll full-time but can request a reduced course load for final semester, if you qualify.
- New I-20s do not need to be issued unless you will apply for a new visa.
- Due to sanctions students from Cuba, Iran, Sudan, or Syria are not able to study online from outside the US.

**New USF F-1 Students Planning to Come to the US**

- You cannot be in all online courses. Therefore, you should select at least one course that includes an in-person meeting during Fall 2020.
- You must enroll full-time.
- OIS is sending new students a new I-20 to indicate USF is using a hybrid model for fall 2020.

We are updating the FAQs on our website as soon as possible [https://www.usf.edu/world/international-services/about-us/faq.aspx](https://www.usf.edu/world/international-services/about-us/faq.aspx).

Sincerest regards,

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