

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

On July 6, 2020, SEVP/ICE provided updated guidance to institutions of higher education with regard to Fall semester 2020 - <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/bcm2007-01.pdf>.

USF plans to offer both face to face and hybrid instruction this fall. If you are currently in the US, or are able to travel to the US, you will have access to various modalities of learning that align with your visa status requirements and our office will issue an updated I-20 that certifies that you are not in an entirely online program. Additionally, the planned online learning following the November Thanksgiving break is only one week and is not a mid-semester change and should not jeopardize visa status. (NOTE: Students who will be in Academic English or Pathway Programs in the Fall cannot take any online courses while in the US.)

If you are currently outside the US and unable to travel back to USF for the fall semester, you will need to complete the Authorized Early Withdrawal e-form in iStart to place your I-20 on hold so you can take online courses from home. You would apply for reactivation for the spring 2021 semester. Since this could have repercussions on your eligibility for practical training, we urge you to carefully consider your plans. You can also use the appointment request eform in iStart to arrange to speak with an international student advisor to discuss. (NOTE: Due to sanctions students from Cuba, Iran, Sudan or Syria not able to study online from outside the US.)

USF, like most other institutions of higher education, has many questions about the guidance. We are waiting for SEVP to provide further clarification and will keep you updated. In the meantime, we are updating the FAQs on our website (<https://www.usf.edu/world/international-services/about-us/faq.aspx>) with the most current information.

Sincerest regards,

**Marcia Taylor, M.A.**

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