

Information for B-1/B-2 Visa Holders

Per federal regulations, B-1/B-2 visa holders are prohibited from enrolling in a course of study at a U.S. Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)-certified school. If you are currently in the US on a B-1 or B-2 nonimmigrant visa and wish to study at a U.S. school, you must file a [Form I-539, "Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status,"](#) with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to change to an F-1 status. Before you can file the I-539, you will need a Form I-20 from Columbus State. Obtain a Form I-20 by submitting the required documents listed on the checklist for F-1 applicants.

Pursuing a change of immigration status in the United States is your personal application and it is strongly recommended that you work with an experienced immigration attorney throughout the process. USCIS may require that you work with an immigration attorney to file your request. ISS cannot offer immigration advice or assistance with your change of status application.

While your Form I-539 is pending, you must maintain your B-1 or B-2 status and cannot enroll in your SEVP-certified program until USCIS approves your change of status request. Enrolling in a course of study as a B-1 or B-2 nonimmigrant, prior to receiving authorization, will result in a status violation and ineligibility to extend your B status or change to F-1 or other nonimmigrant status in the future.

If USCIS has not approved your change of status at least 15 days before the program start date on your Form I-20, contact [Candace Allen](#) so your admission can be deferred to the next semester.

For the most accurate and up-to-date information regarding change of status applications and instructions, visit the Department of Homeland Security's webpage for international students – [Study in the States](#).

Additional resources for your use:

[B1-B2 Visitors Who Want to Enroll in School](#)

[American Immigration Lawyers Association](#)

[USCIS Case Processing Times](#)