Your SEVIS I-20—What You Need to Know About This New Document!

You now have a SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) I-20. SEVIS shares information via the internet with various United States (US) government agencies, US embassies and consulates overseas, as well as US ports of entry. Your SEVIS I-20 is a bar-coded original, which will be scanned at the port of entry each time you enter the US. Photocopies of this SEVIS I-20 will not be accepted by immigration officials at embassies, consulates, or ports of entry.

Reportable Events

In SEVIS, Metropolitan State must report certain events to the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Service (BCIS) when they occur. Here is a list of some of the reportable changes:

You must report these changes to the International Student Services (ISS) Office immediately:

- Address change in home (foreign) or US;
- Academic changes, such as change in educational level (from undergraduate to graduate), change of major or adding a second major, etc.

The ISS Office must process the following:

- Enrollment for less than full-time requires prior approval—no exceptions;
- Program extension before your I-20 expires;
- Off-campus employment, including Curricular Practical Training (CPT) or Optional Practical Training (OPT);
- Transfer to another institution;
- Financial changes.

In addition to reporting the events listed above, each semester Metropolitan State is required to report your enrollment to SEVIS. You must be enrolled as full-time student—12 credit for undergraduate and eight credits for graduate students.

Traveling with your I-20

- For travel outside of the US, please schedule an appointment with the ISS office three weeks in advance so that the international advisor can endorse your I-20 on page 3. Please request from the records and registration office an official university academic transcript (cost $2) to attach to your SEVIS I-20.
- At the port of entry, immigration officials may take the SEVIS I-20, which they will then mail to the university. The ISS will return it to you.
- If you are applying for a new visa, allow six to eight weeks for the visa application process.
- Expect delays in your visa application, so apply early!