

How to Transfer to Another School

Transferring to another school as an F1 student involves several steps and communication with the IEC and your new school. This guide ensures a smooth transfer process and maintains your F1 status.

Step 1: Get Accepted to the New School

1. **Apply to the New School:** Submit your application and all required documents to the school where you wish to transfer.
2. **Receive Acceptance Letter:** Once accepted, you will receive an acceptance letter from the new school.

Step 2: Notify Your Current School

1. **Inform Your Current DSO:** Notify the IEC's DSO of your intent to transfer.
2. **Provide Acceptance Letter:** Show the acceptance letter from your new school to the IEC's DSO.

Step 3: Transfer Your SEVIS Record

1. **Complete Transfer Out Form:** The IEC requires you to complete a transfer out form. Please contact the IEC's DSO for this form.
2. **Select a Transfer Release Date:** Work with the IEC's DSO to select a SEVIS transfer release date. This date should be after your current term ends and before the start date at your new school.

Step 4: Obtain a New I-20 from Your New School

1. **Wait for SEVIS Transfer:** Your SEVIS record will be transferred to the new school after the transfer release date.
2. **Receive New I-20:** Your new school will issue a new I-20 form. Make sure the program start date is correct.

Step 5: Maintain Your Status During the Transfer

1. **Keep Attending Classes:** Continue attending classes at the IEC until the transfer release date.
2. **Avoid Gaps:** Ensure there is no gap in your F1 status. You must start classes at your new school in the next available term, which should begin within 5 months of your last date of attendance or within 5 months of your transfer release date, whichever is earlier.

Important Considerations

- **Travel During Transfer:** If you plan to travel outside the US between schools, re-enter with the I-20 from your new school.
- **Communication:** Keep open communication with the IEC and new DSOs throughout the transfer process.
- **Update Address:** Report any change of address to your new DSO within 10 days of moving.

Common Questions

- **Can I Work During the Transfer?**
 - You can work on-campus at TSU until the transfer release date. You may begin on-campus employment at your new school after the program start date listed on your new I-20.
- **What If My New Program Starts More Than 5 Months After My Current Program Ends?**
 - You may need to leave the US and re-enter with a new initial I-20. Consult with your DSO for specific instructions.

By following these steps, you can ensure a successful transfer to your new school while maintaining your F1 status. If you have questions or need further assistance, contact the DSOs at the IEC and the new school.