F-1 Student Visa

Center for International Programs
Kalamazoo College
Basics

- SEVIS
- I-20
- Visa: allows you to enter, does not tell you when you have to leave US!
- I-94 Admission Number: www.cbp.gov/I94
- Academics
- Employment (On-campus ONLY! For first year)
- Optional Practical Training (OPT) = internship related to major field of studies
- CPT = SIP-related internship (summer after 3rd year)
- Travel
How To Maintain Your F-1 Status

- Enroll full-time every quarter, go to class
  - Minimum 2.4 courses per quarter at K
  - F-1 students cannot simply withdraw from a class like domestic students! Special procedure you must follow with academic advisor and CIP—PLEASE REMEMBER THIS!
- Must make “normal progress” toward completing course of studies.
  - General rule: Earn at least “C-” in all courses.
- Work only on-campus at Kalamazoo College no more than 20 hours per week.
  - 40 hours/week during breaks.
• Do not become involved in any disciplinary issues at College or criminal activity.

• Report change of address to Alayna Pelfresne within 10 days of change.

• Report any major/minor to Alayna Pelfresne and any changes that might occur.

• Do not exceed your authorized period of stay. (Even if F-1 visa is expired a student is allowed to stay in the U.S as long as F-1 status is maintained by full-time study or authorized employment).
What you need to submit to the CIP

- You need to make 6 copies and submit 3 copies of every document to the CIP before Week 2 of Fall Quarter (Passport-picture page, VISA, I-20, and I-94 Admission Number). Keep 2 copies for Social Security Number app.

*Copy machine available in the CIP*
Authorized Period of Stay

- The date on item #5 of the I-20 form indicates the period of time you are allowed to pursue your educational objective.
- It is possible to extend the program end date, but this must be done BEFORE that date is reached.
Social Security Number (SSN)

- SSN is required to apply for a job.
- You need an SSN when filing US taxes.
- You can apply for SSN 10 days after entering the US.
- Every international student at K MUST apply for a SSN!!

PLEASE be sure to bring all required documents to Social Security office—including a letter from the CIP!!!
To apply for SSN

- Bus to Social Security Administration:
  - September 24 8am
  - September 25 8am

  PLEASE CHECK YOUR K EMAIL FOR MORE INFO!

- You need to bring
  - Passport
  - I-94 Admission Number
  - I-20
  - Two copies of each document listed above
  - Completed SSN application
  - Two letters from CIP-You will get the letters in a few weeks and will receive an email when they’re ready for you to pick up in the CIP.
Leaving the U.S.

- Get the proper travel signature on page 3 of your I-20 from the appropriate CIP staff member (Angela Gross, Joe Brockington or Margaret Wiedenhoeft) before traveling outside of the US, including to either Canada or Mexico, during the academic year.
  - The signature is valid for one year.
  - Have a valid passport & visa and I-20
Optional Practical Training (OPT)

- Optional Practical Training (OPT) is temporary employment that is directly related to an F-1 student’s major area of study as shown on I-20.
- An F-1 student could be authorized to receive up to a total of 12 months of OPT either before (pre-) and/or after (post-) completion of studies.
- Some students may be eligible for an additional 17 months of post-completion OPT! (STEM fields only)
Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

- Possible only for Senior Individualized Project (SIP)-related internship, typically done the summer after your junior year
You will have a 60 day-grace period at the end of academic program to prepare for departure, transfer your SEVIS record to another US institution or begin OPT (Optional Practical Training) upon completion of program.
QUESTIONS?

Please ask Alayna Pelfresne