



# International Students

## Maintaining Your F-1 Status Form

F-1 students are admitted to the United States for “Duration of Status” (“DS” is found on the white I-94 card or in your passport). You are permitted to stay in the U.S. as long as you maintain your status by fulfilling the requirements of being an F-1 student. Even if your visa is valid, you can lose your legal F-1 student status if you do not comply with immigration laws regulating your stay in the U.S. If you are accepted and enroll at Lamar State College Port Arthur (LSCPA), abiding by the following rules is extremely important to maintain your F-1 status and to succeed! Penalties for violating them may include 1) dismissal from Lamar State College Port Arthur, 2) violating your F-1 status, 3) applying for reinstatement or voluntarily leaving the United States, or 4) deportation.

Initial	Condition
1	Documents submitted to Lamar State College Port Arthur for F-1 Student Admissions are for admissions purposes and issuance of the Form I-20 only. If accepted, you will receive an I-20 and acceptance letter from the International Advisor/DSO. You are then solely responsible for applying for the F-1 visa/status with the U.S. government, or transferring your SEVIS record if already an F-1 student. Refer to <a href="https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students">https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students</a> for guidelines for each type of applicant.
2	You must register in a minimum of 12 credit hours by the official start date of each fall and spring semester and remain enrolled in at least 12 credit hours every semester. If the summer semester is your first semester at LSCPA, you must enroll in 12 credit hours. You must receive approval from your advisor before dropping below 12 credit hours or ending your studies in the U.S. and leaving the country. Taking all “late start” courses is not recommended, may not be permitted, and may make you ineligible for the mandatory medical insurance. Check with your advisor first.
3	You must see an academic advisor to create a LSCPA degree plan before your first semester ends. A copy will be provided to your DSO. Do not take any courses that are not part of the degree plan or start a new degree plan without written approval from your advisor.
4	Only courses that count toward your LSCPA degree requirements can be used to fulfill the 12-credit hour requirement unless you receive permission in writing from your advisor and DSO. Math courses that begin with ‘0’ cannot be used to meet the 12 semester credit hours.
5	If enrolled in all college-level classes (courses that begin with the number 1 or higher) you must have at least 9 credit hours in face-to-face classes (in person) each semester. Students with one class in the final semester of their degree must take it in person. If you are taking any ESOL or developmental English courses (courses that begin with a ‘0’), you cannot take any courses that are online, hybrid, teleconference, etc. even if the other courses are college-level courses.
6	Due to state law, you may be required to take placement testing upon arrival. Depending on your scores, you may need to take developmental English, or developmental Math courses (start with 0) either before starting your degree or while pursuing degree courses. Developmental courses do not count toward degree requirements so it may take more time to complete. After completing your final developmental courses, you will need to submit updated financial documents no later than 30 days from your course completion date to request an updated I-20 if you plan on earning a degree.
7	If you receive a grade of ‘W’ for a course, the course will not count toward your 12-semester credit hour requirement.
8	Do not take classes that are not part of Lamar State College Port Arthur unless you receive permission in writing from your DSO.

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9	If you fall below 12 semester credit hours you must apply for reinstatement before being allowed further enrollment at any Lamar State College Port Arthur.
10	You must make satisfactory academic progress as defined by the college towards completing your program of study (GPA of at least 2.0). Repeated poor academic performance can result in school suspension which may result in loss of F-1 status.
11	F-1 students with a LSCPA I-20 must purchase a LSCPA approved Student Health Insurance plan each semester before you can register for classes. See <a href="https://isoa.org/">https://isoa.org/</a> for available plan and details. Students requesting medical leave must also satisfy this requirement. Special approval for coverage is required for students requesting medical leave. Contact your DSO for instructions.
12	Use your name as listed on your passport on all official documents such as school records, Texas driver's license or ID, applications USCIS, and the Social Security Administration.
13	Fulfill the meningitis vaccine requirement before registering for classes. This is Texas state law. See <a href="https://www.lamarpa.edu/Future-Students/Admission-Information/Admission-Resources/Meningitis-Vaccine">https://www.lamarpa.edu/Future-Students/Admission-Information/Admission-Resources/Meningitis-Vaccine</a> to determine if you are affected and options for satisfying the requirement.
14	You must submit official (original) foreign high school completion documents and a certified translation to the campus Admissions office, before registering for your first semester of classes.
15	Report any changes of phone number, address, academic major, expected program completion date, or any other information on your SEVIS I-20 to your DSO within 10 days of the change
16	Maintain a valid (unexpired) passport and SEVIS I-20 at all times. Plan accordingly.
17	Your I-20 program end date will be shortened based on the date you finish your degree program requirements.
18	Upon completing your degree requirements, you have 60 days from the last day of your classes to: 1) transfer to another institution to earn your Bachelor's degree or 2) depart the U.S., or 3) change to a new immigration status. You have to do one of these even if you still have time on your I-20. Plan accordingly.
19	Apply for a program extension if you cannot complete your degree by the ending date listed on your SEVIS I-20. You must apply for a program extension 30 days before the expiration date.
20	Request a travel endorsement signature on your I-20 from your DSO at least 30 days prior to departure.
21	Attend the required International Student Orientation at the beginning of your first semester at Lamar State College Port Arthur.
22	Notify your DSO before attending any schools other than Lamar State College-Port Arthur. Your F-1 record must be transferred if you decide to attend another school, so please plan accordingly.
23	Contact your DSO right away if you fall out of status and wish to apply for reinstatement and continue your studies as an F-1 student.
24	Check your MyLSCPA email account regularly. Your DSO will email you there.
25	Check your MyLSCPA student online account to-do list and holds regularly and complete the items.
26	Your I-20 program end date will be shortened based on the date you finish your degree program requirements.
27	Upon completing your degree requirements, you have 60 days from the last day of your classes to: 1) transfer to another institution to earn your Bachelor's degree or 2) depart the U.S., or 3) change to a new immigration status. You have to do one of these even if you still have time on your I-20. Plan accordingly.
28	Follow the Lamar State College Port Arthur Student Policy: <a href="https://www.lamarpa.edu/Lamar/media/Lamar/Files/Policies/LSCPA-Student-Handbook.pdf">https://www.lamarpa.edu/Lamar/media/Lamar/Files/Policies/LSCPA-Student-Handbook.pdf</a> Violations may lead to dismissal from Lamar State College Port Arthur which may affect your status.

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<b>For Students with Dependents (Spouse or Children under the Age of 21 on F-2 visa)</b>	
29	Children on the F-2 visa must change to another visa status before their 21st birthday or change to F-1 status before beginning full-time study at the college level, whichever comes first. Otherwise they must depart the U.S. This is government policy. Plan accordingly.
<b>For Applicants Changing to F-1 Status while in the U.S.</b>	
30	If you meet the admission requirements, Lamar State College Port Arthur will issue the Form I-20 for the semester you request in your International Student Application if classes are available for your language abilities. However, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has special rules about the expiration of your current status and when your F-1 program should start. This may negatively impact the decision they give you. It is your responsibility to make sure you meet their requirements. We advise you to seek the assistance of an experienced immigration attorney. Lamar State College Port Arthur cannot be responsible for a denial by USCIS. Please see the Instructions for Form I-539 section on the USCIS website for more information: <a href="https://uscis.gov/i-539">uscis.gov/i-539</a> .
31	In addition to the terms above, you must notify your DSO of your Change of Status decision from USCIS, whether it is an approval or denial, within 3 business days of receiving it. You will out of status if you are approved and do not enroll in classes by a specific date.

**Lamar State College Port Arthur requires that you fulfill all financial obligations prior to continued enrollment and the issuance of academic records. *Rules and regulations are subject to change.***

I certify that I have read the above statement about maintaining my F-1 status in the United States. I understand that it is my responsibility to understand and follow all rules and regulations pertaining to my legal status and enrollment at Lamar State College Port Arthur if I am accepted and enroll at the college.	
Print Name _____	LSCPA ID# _____
Signature _____	Date _____