Meet the International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) Team

Adam Julian - Director

Dave Anguish - Assistant Director

Adwoa Hanson-Hall - ISSS Advisor

Natalie Lobb - International Student Support Manager

Mercedes Arias - ISSS Advisor

Sarah Cockcroft - ISSS Advisor

International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)

About ISSS

International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS), a branch of UMBC's Center for Global Engagement, is dedicated to supporting UMBC's international student and scholar community and helping them achieve their academic, personal, and professional goals. ISSS offers a variety of programs and services to aide students in these endeavors:

- **Immigration Advising** - ISSS helps international students and scholars navigate the U.S. visa process and maintain valid immigration status by providing the guidance, knowledge, and necessary resources.
- **Community Building** - ISSS offers programming designed to help students make important connections within the UMBC community. These opportunities for intercultural exchange and mutual understanding enhance the UMBC international student experience.
- **Work and Internships** - ISSS works with current students and alumni to help them access the many employment and internship opportunities available to them by facilitating the use of benefits such as Curricular Practical Training (CPT), Optional Practical Training (OPT), and other employment authorizations.

Agenda

Session 1 - Wednesday, August 24th. 9:00 AM EST

- COVID-19 Protocols
- Using ISSS Resources
- F-1/J-1 International Student Immigration Requirements
- Employment options for F-1 International Students
- Student Business Services Office
- Scams, Single Sign on Safety etc..
- ISSS Portal

Reminder: Attendance at both sessions is mandatory.

Session 1: International Student Orientation

Agenda

Session 2 - Friday, August 26th. 9:00 AM EST

- Review of F-1 International Student Immigration Requirements
- U.S. Culture In and Out of the Classroom
- Health Insurance and Waiver Process
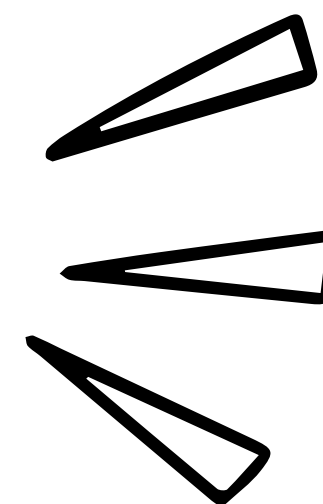- U.S. Healthcare System
- Career Center

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Session 1: International Student Orientation

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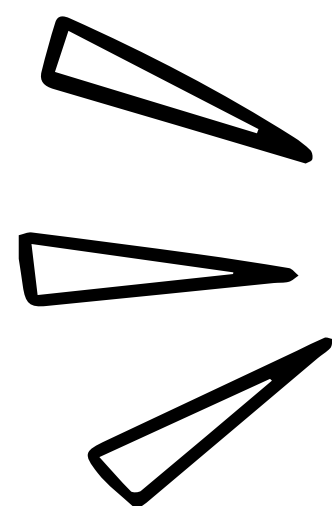
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Your patience is appreciated as we answer your questions!

Attendance Time!

Please now complete the Google Form we have shared in the chat.

The form will stop accepting submissions in **20 minutes**. You must be present for the **entire** duration of session!

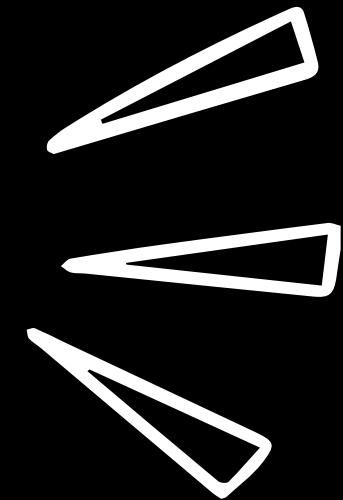Reminder: Attendance at both sessions is mandatory.

COVID -19 Protocols

- COVID-19 vaccination is ==strongly recommended== for all students, faculty, and staff on campus

- KN95 or equivalent masks must be worn in all spaces where masking is required

- UMBC is following CDC's guidelines for international travel and quarantine
  - Proof of vaccination with an approved vaccine BEFORE traveling to the U.S. is required. Check with your airline or CDC Travel Assessment for compliance
  - Not required to quarantine but self-isolation for a few days are recommended, especially after international travel

- Please refer to the FAQ for International Students on www.covid-19.umbc.edu site

Direct all COVID-19 Questions to covid19@umbc.edu
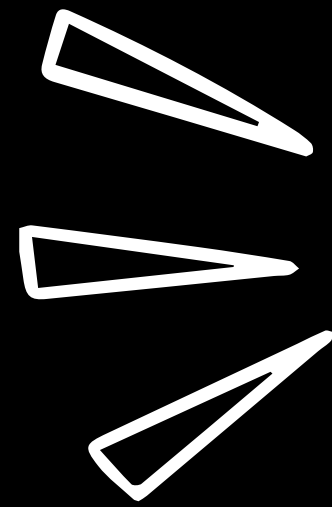
ISSS
Resources

Need Assistance?

Visit our Contact us page!
isss.umbc.edu/contact/

Contact Us

Before you schedule an appointment or contact us, the answers to most F-1 student questions can be found here:

CPT: Off-Campus Work Authorization

Social Security Numbers (SSN)

Travel Outside the US

Applying for a Maryland Driver's License or State ID

OPT: Post-Graduation Work Authorization

STEM OPT Extension

Extend Your F-1 Program (I-20)

Change of Immigration Status

New Students! Download the International Student Arrival Guide

COVID-19: Spring 2022 Options for New and Continuing F-1 Students

Something else? See how to contact ISSS

University Center, 207a
(Appointment Required)

What should I do if I have a question?

1 ·····> **2** ·····> **3** ·····> **4**

Check the website! **Ask us on Live Chat** **Submit a Help Ticket** **Advising Appointment**

1 Check the website!

Start here!

Most answers can be found on the website

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On our contact us page, we put icons that will take you to the answers for the most common questions

Always do this first!

Got the answer you need? Great! No need to go on to step 2

Can't find the answer on the website? then...

2 **Ask us on Live Chat**

You can ask quick questions on Live Chat

You'll chat directly with an ISSS advisor

Please keep it brief :)

Other students may be in the queue

Has your question been resolved? No need to go on to step 3

Still need more help?

3 **Submit a Help Ticket**

Once you submit a ticket, **all** ISSS staff can see it (you don't need to CC us or submit follow up tickets!)

Response time: 3-5 business days

Still require further assistance?

4 **Advising appointment**

Most questions are resolved before this step!
An advisor can let you know if your situation requires an advising appointment

Where can I find this information?

How to work with ISSS and answers to your most common questions can be found on the

Contact Us page here

Have a question about campus life or navigating UMBC?

Ask a Global Ambassador on Unibuddy!

There are 10 student ambassadors from different home countries, areas of study and with a wide variety of personal interests

Click here to meet and chat with the Ambassadors!

How Global Ambassadors can help

Global Ambassadors <u>can</u>:

- Discover more about UMBC campus life
- Connect you with UMBC resources
- Learn about US & UMBC classroom culture and student life in the US!

Global Ambassadors cannot:

- Provide immigration support
- Help you get a job or provide CPT/OPT advice
- Offer academic advising or pick your classes for you

...BUT they can connect you with teams who will help you with these things!

Meet other new students on Unibuddy Community!

Welcome to

UMBC Fall 2022 Admitted Students

Join this community to start chatting with other students as well as university staff and ambassadors!

Let's go!

Click here to join the Fall 2022 UMBC Admitted Student Group

- Chat with other admitted students as well as our UMBC Global Ambassadors
- Get to know your classmates and talk about student life at UMBC!
- Ask current student questions about starting at UMBC

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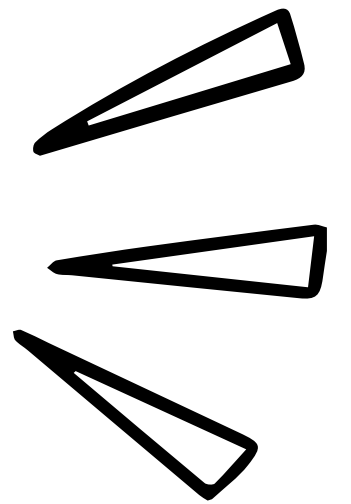- Scams, Single Sign on Safety etc..
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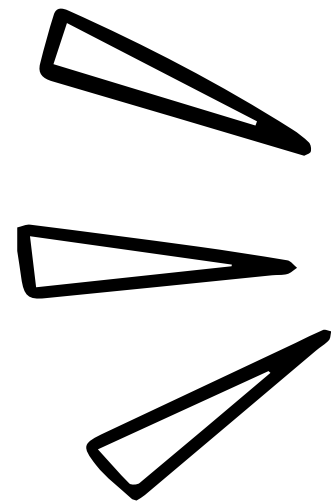
Immigration Information Breakouts!

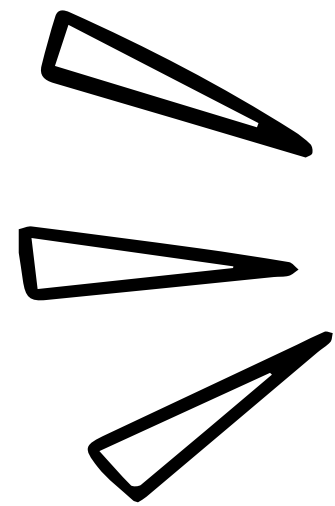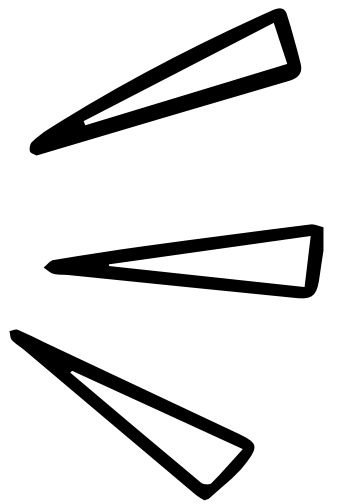| **New F-1 Students**	**F-1 Transfer Students**	**J-1 Student & Scholars**
Stay here! No links to click	Click link in chat to join Transfer session with Adwoa	Click link in chat to join J-1 session with Adam

Welcome International Students!

New F-1 Student Immigration Information

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isss.umbc.edu/contact/

Contact Us

Before you schedule an appointment or contact us, the answers to most F-1 student questions can be found here:

CPT: Off-Campus Work Authorization	Social Security Numbers (SSN)	Travel Outside the US	Applying for a Maryland Driver's License or State ID
OPT: Post-Graduation Work Authorization	STEM OPT Extension	Extend Your F-1 Program (I-20)	Change of Immigration Status
New Students! Download the International Student Arrival Guide	COVID-19: Spring 2022 Options for New and Continuing F-1 Students		Something else? See how to contact ISSS

University Center, 207a
(Appointment required)

Stay connected with ISSS

ISSS email list:
Read your email!

myUMBC Group:
ISSS

ISSS website:
isss.umbc.edu

Answers to most
of your questions
can be found here!

ISSS Portal:
isss-portal.umbc.edu

Contact Us:
isss.umbc.edu/contact/

Follow us on social media!

We're online! Follow us to learn about ISSS activities.

Facebook:
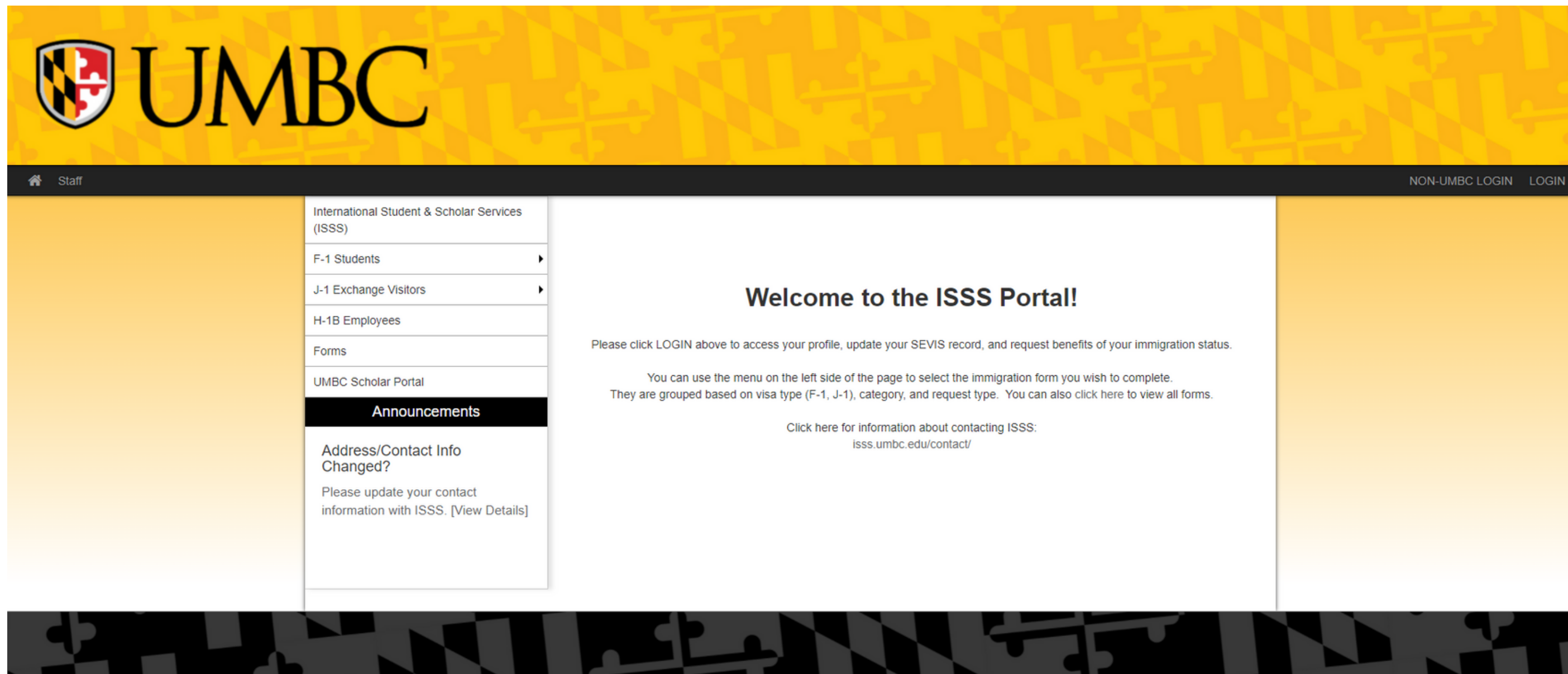umbcisss

Twitter:
@umbc_isss

Instagram:
@umbc_isss

Tag us in your adventures on campus and the U.S.

ISSS Portal

ISSS has gone paperless!

Complete all electronic applications via the ISSS Portal

About the
ISSS Portal

- Centralized system for all immigration applications and requests for documents
- Personal account to upload and manage all secure documents
- Personalized reminders for deadlines, electronic advisor signatures on applications, and much more!

Let's
Talk
Immigration

F-1 Status vs. F-1 Visa

- It is very important to clarify these two legal terms in order to understand how to maintain your immigration status in the U.S.
- The terms "visa" and "status" can be easily confused, but they are different things!

Visa

- Functions as a key, or pass, to enter the U.S.
- Defines why you are coming (F-1 = student)
- Page in your passport
- The visa is only for entering the US, and in F-1 status, does not have a role beyond that purpose

Status

- Ability to remain legally in the US
- At the Port of Entry you are granted a specific kind of immigration status (ex, F-1)
- Recorded on I-94 record
- Your status determines the rules you have to follow, and the options you have, while in the US
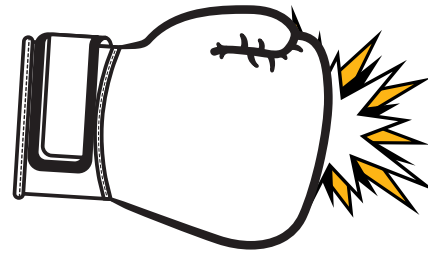
Visa vs. Status
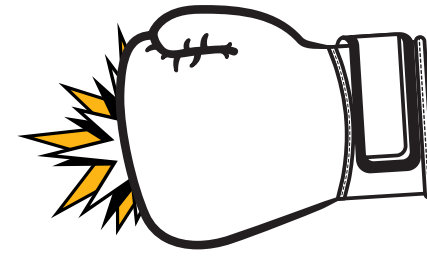
- Example Time – Let's Go To The Movies!
- Movie ticket = visa
- Your movie = status (can only stay for the duration of the reason you entered)

Immigration Documents

- Passport
- Visa
- I-94 Record
- I-20

Your Passport

- Note Expiration Dates -- <mark>must be valid at all times!</mark>
- Renewal process
- Request exit/entry stamps
- Try not to carry passport around – carry a copy

F-1 Visa Page

- Indicates you are entering the U.S. as a student
- Number of entries -- 1, 2, or 'M' entry
- Length of visa – Reciprocity Rule
- Expiration only affects re-entry to US
- Renewal Process (transcript)
- Almost any US Embassy outside the US

I-94 Record

- Entry/ Exit Record, Received upon entry to U.S.
- Grants specific status in US – should be "F-1 Status" (if not let us know). Different statuses have different rules.
- Also grants length of time you can stay in the U.S. - Should indicate D/S - "Duration of Status"
- Check your I-94 each time you return to the U.S., online

I-94 Record

- https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/
- Or Google "I-94"

I-94 Record

Can't find your I-94 online? Errors in your I-94 record?

You can work with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to get it corrected. The nearest CBP office is at BWI international airport. Bring your passport and Form I-20 with you.

Most Recent I-94 Results

👤 For: ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓

Most Recent I-94

Admission (I-94) Record Number : ▓▓▓▓▓
Most Recent Date of Entry: 2017 December 26
Class of Admission : F1
Admit Until Date : D/S
Details provided on the I-94 Information form:

Last/Surname : ▓▓▓▓▓▓
First (Given) Name : ▓▓▓▓▓
Birth Date : ▓▓▓▓▓
Passport Number : ▓▓▓▓▓
Country of Issuance : ▓▓▓▓

🔄 GET THIS TRAVELER'S **TRAVEL HISTORY**

< PREVIOUS   PRINT

I-20

- Confirms funding, student status, major, and specific school.
- Has your **SEVIS ID** on top left side
- **Program Dates must be valid**
- Be aware of your program End Date!
- For international travel, your I-20 must have a valid travel signature on the third page
  - This signature is valid for one year

Interactive Question Time!

Which document assigns your immigration status when you arrive in the US?

- I-20 *or* I-94?

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What document must not expire while you are in the US?

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Interactive Question Time!

Which document assigns your immigration status when you arrive in the US?

- I-20 *or* I-94?

What document must not expire while you are in the US?

- I-20 *or* passport *or* visa?

What document cannot be renewed in the US?

- visa *or* I-20 *or* passport?

What documents should I carry?

- **Carry the following with you AT ALL TIMES:**
  - <u>COPIES</u> of passport, visa, I-94, and I-20
- **Carry if you have them:**
  - Maryland Driver's License
  - Maryland State ID
  - International Driver's
  - License and translation

Maintaining Status - Loss of Status

- **"Loss of status"** or **"out of status"** means you no longer have a legal immigration status in the US
- Results from breaking F-1 rules
- No F-1 benefits (employment)
- Reinstatement
- Bars to returning to the US

How can you lose your status?

- If you do not register for a full course load
- If you let your I-20 end date expire
- If you work off-campus without authorization
- If you break the law and are arrested for more than a minor offense

Maintaining your F-1 Status: Course Registration

- You have to be registered at UMBC!
- Optional to register during Summer and Winter breaks - not required
- Must be registered "full time" during Fall and Spring semesters – ✳we check!✳
- May take a class at another campus also (must speak with academic advisor first

Online Courses

- Generally F-1 students can take only **one** online class per semester
- Hybrid classes are considered "in-person," not "online."
- In your final semester, you cannot take only an online class to complete degree requirements

- Exceptions to this rule due to COVID-19 don't apply to NEW students entering the US for their first semester

Definition of "Full-Time Enrollment" at UMBC

- **Undergraduate students:**
  - **12** credit hours minimum Fall and Spring semester

- **Graduate Students:**
  - **9** credits per semester in fall and spring semester.
  - Full-Time graduate assistants should register for at least 4 academic credits
  - Part-Time graduate assistants should register for at least 6 academic credits

"Reduced Course Load"

- Few exceptions to the full-time enrollment requirement:
  - Medical (physical or mental health challenges)
  - Academic (can only be approved once):
    - First Semester Academic Difficulty (English language, reading requirements, adjustment challenges)
    - "Improper Course Placement"
- MUST be approved by ISSS before dropping below full-time

Brief Overview of Work Options

Employment is limited under F-1 status

The employment rules are very strict and must be followed carefully

Types of Employment

- On-Campus Employment
- Practical Training (off-campus)
  - Curricular Practical Training (CPT)
  - Optional Practical Training (OPT)
- Need-based employment (off-campus)
  - Severe, Unexpected, Documented Economic Hardship (USCIS processing fee of $410)

On-Campus Employment

- Must be on UMBC's campus **ONLY** – BW Tech Park, for example, is NOT on campus
- Must be paid by UMBC
- May work **no more than 20 hours per week** during semesters
- May hold more than one job on campus so long as total hours are no more than 20
- May work full-time (More than 20 hours per week) outside of semesters

On-Campus Employment

Find an on-campus job:

- The Career Center website – Handshake
- Career Center guidance on documents (CV, cover letter); best practices
- Network!

Off-Campus Employment: CPT

CPT: Curricular Practical Training
- Paid internships while a current student
- Eligible after 2 academic semesters in US
- Must be authorized by ISSS, noted on I-20
- Must be related to your degree program, and noted on transcript

Off-Campus Employment: CPT

Find an internship:

- Career Center!!
  - Review their communications
  - Handshake
  - Events
  - Guidance
- Academic Department
- Network with other students

Off-Campus Employment: OPT

OPT: Optional Practical Training

- Usually after graduation
- 1 Year of work authorization
- Can work for any employer/change employer, work has to be related to academic field studied at UMBC
- Requires application to USCIS, plan for 3-4 months processing time

Off-Campus Employment: STEM OPT Extension

- STEM Extension – possibility of 24 months additional OPT
- STEM-eligible degree completed
- Requires E-Verified employer, I-983 Training Plan
- Can change employers

Off-Campus Employment: Economic Hardship

- For students in unexpected financial hardship
- Have to prove source of unexpected difficulties
- Not often approved, have to make a very strong case
- Application to USCIS costs $410
- Don't rely on this option!

Employment Quiz Time!

1. You've graduated with a PhD in Biology, and got a job offer in a bio lab.
2. You are offered a position to shelve books in the UMBC library.
3. You are an Engineering major and want to work as an Uber Driver.
4. You are a 2nd semester Computer Science major and get an offer for a summer internship in California to work for Google!

...but where can I find a job?!

- Again, the Career Center is a great place to start
  - Career Center Events
  - Career Center Services
  - Handshake
- ALL available at careers.umbc.edu

Work Options Summary

Work Type	Location	Eligibility	Related To Major	Authorization Required	Weekly Limits
On Campus Employment	On UMBC's campus	After arriving on campus	No	No	Semester: 20hrs Session Break: 40hrs
CPT	Off campus	After 2 Academic Semesters	Yes	ISSS	Semester: 20hrs Session Break: 40hrs
OPT	Off campus	After graduation	Yes	USCIS	Minimum 20hrs/week
STEM OPT Extension	Off Campus	After OPT	Yes	USCIS	Minimum 20hrs/week
Economic Hardship	Off Campus	During studies	No	USCIS	Semester: 20hrs Session Break: 40hrs

Other ISSS Services

Social Security Number (SSN)

Purpose
- Required to get paid
- Tracks income for tax purposes

Application Process
- Receive job offer
- Complete New Student Arrival Documentation Check-In in ISSS Portal
- Submit SSN Letter Request via ISSS Portal
- Allow 3 - 5 business days for processing
- See the ISSS website for instructions: isss.umbc.edu/ssn/

Annual Income Tax Filing

Tax returns are filed every year to summarize how much tax money you have paid on your income, and if you owe more or are due a refund back.

- Annual Tax Returns are due each year around April 15 - we provide free software (Sprintax)

ALL students are required to file income tax forms whether you earn any income or not

Driving License/State ID

- Foreign license valid only for THREE MONTHS before you are required to obtain a U.S. license.
- ISSS office has Drivers Handbook copies; more information is on our website
- MVA (Motor Vehicle Administration) also offers State ID Cards

IMPORTANT!
Maintain Your Status

Maintain Your Status!

- Register full-time
- Keep I-20 current
- Follow employment guidelines closely
- Don't break U.S. laws
- Keep in touch with the ISSS Office

Remember...

Your immigration status is your responsibility!

We are here to assist you in maintaining it so your experience in the US is enjoyable and fruitful.

Need Assistance?

Visit our Contact us page!
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