

Online Pre-Arrival Orientation

International Programs Office – Fall 2022



What is SEVIS?

SEVIS = Student and Exchange Visitor Information System

A process of electronic reporting by DSU and the International Programs Office of <u>required</u> information reported to USCIS.

Applies to students on F-1 visas and their dependents (F-2)



Passport

Passports must be valid during your entire stay in the U.S. Consult with your embassy or consulate to extend passport





Visa Stamp

Visa stamp is an entry permit only. You are eligible to stay in the U.S. after

it has expired.

If your F-1 visa is expired, you must apply for a new visa when you travel outside the U.S. with intent to return.

For visa application information, visit: https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/









I-94

D/S: Duration of Studies/Status; allows an international student to stay in the U.S. so long as he/she complies with immigration regulations of the F-1 status.

You will need a copy of your I-94 information, you can retrieve it from here: <u>www.cbp.gov/I94</u>. The IPO will assist you with this when you check-in.



Data Integrity

The information you provide to various U.S. agencies should be consistent to eliminate data discrepancies.

Names must be consistent on all official documents, including spacing and hyphens (passport, I 20, visa stamp, and I 94 card).

If you have a number of records where the spelling of the name is inconsistent, government officials are more likely to interpret this as a deliberate attempt at misrepresentation.

It is your responsibility to check your documents and notify the International Programs Office of any errors.



Stay in status!

- **1. Complete Check in/Transfer Procedure**
- 2. Health Insurance
- 3. Full time Enrollment
- 4. Finances
- 5. Academic Maturity and Integrity
- 6. Social Security Number
- 7. Employment
- 8. Report Changes to I 20 (address, name, degree program, major)
- 9. Driver's License & Driving in SD
- 10. Travel
- **11. Extension of stay**
- **12. Grace Period**



Complete SEVIS Check-in/Transfer



- All students must complete all of the following:
 - the Online Pre-Arrival Orientation & quiz;
 - Forward proof of Health Insurance to <u>international@dsu.edu</u>
 - Request an appointment with the IPO the week of August 15th, 2022. This will be on campus at the International Programs Office.
 - Attend the <u>mandatory</u> International Student Orientation, Thursday, August 18th, at 9:00am.
- Bring the following documents to the SEVIS Check-in:
 - Passport (including visa)
 - DSU I-20
 - Current, local address
 - Bring your previous school's I-20 if you are a transfer student.
 - We will print your I-94 information at check-in.



Student Health Insurance Requirements

As an F-1 Dakota State University student, you and your F-2 dependents are required to be covered by a health insurance plan.

GeoBlue will be the provider for all international students in South Dakota. You may purchase it for the semester or the year. If you are a DSU athlete, there is different coverage available that covers your athletic participation. Please provide the IPO with proof of coverage before you leave your home country.

Visit the Resource Center on <u>www.geobluestudents.com</u> and enter your group access code listed below to review plan details and pricing. You have 2 plans to pick from that are listed below.

Dakota State University – Basic Website: <u>www.geobluestudents.com</u> Group Access Code- PCS-44605 **Dakota State University -Enhanced Website:** <u>www.geobluestudents.com</u> Group Access Code PCX-44607





Full Time Enrollment

Maintain full-time enrollment during the academic year (fall & spring semesters):

- Undergraduates = 12 credits
- Graduates = 6-9 credits GA's are required to have 9
- Summer enrollment is optional
- Enrolling as a full-time student at the beginning of the term is not enough. You must maintain full time enrollment through the end of the term.

Online courses

- Undergraduates registered for 12 credits may take one,
- 3-credit class online
- Graduates registered for 6-12 credits may take one,
- 3-credit class online

Full Time Enrollment

Acceptable reasons to drop below minimum credits:

- Medical Reason--must have documentation from physician or medical professional <u>with</u> appropriate recommendation
- Last enrolled semester of degree program (you can only have one last semester)

Full Time Enrollment

- US Department of Homeland Security requires that you receive approval from <u>the International</u> <u>Programs Office **BEFORE**</u> you drop below the minimum requirement.
- If you cannot maintain full time status, submit the Request for Reduced Course Load to <u>the</u> <u>International Programs Office</u> for approval.

Attend First day of classes! If you do not attend, the professor may drop you from the class and give your seat to another student.





Finances

Tuition and fees payments are due by: September 2nd, 2022. If you need additional time to transfer your money to the US, you must be in contact with the Cashier's Office the first day of class.

You may request a payment plan between July 29th, 2022 and September 2nd, 2022.

You can make your payment using: https://www.flywire.com/pay/dsu



Finances

Local banks in Madison, SD

- First Bank & Trust
- Great Western Bank
- Wells Fargo Bank
- Great West

You may wish to bring along cash or cashier's check to the US to set-up your local bank account.



Academic Maturity/Integrity

Dakota State University requires adherence to the University's standards of academic integrity. Below are two examples of <u>unacceptable</u> behavior:

Cheating using unauthorized notes, study aids, or information on examinations; presenting another person's work as your own. Providing material, information, or other assistance to another person with knowledge that such aid could be used in any of the violations stated above.

Plagiarism submitting material that in part or whole is not entirely one's own work without attributing those same portions to their correct source.

- Copying others' writing, or even a small part of their writing, without proper permission
- Taking credit for any writing that is not your own
- Using other authors' material and changing it somewhat without stating next to the material exactly where it came from.
- Not using quotation marks around any and all material this is not your own.
- Graduate students can not receive any D's or F's. They will be automatically suspended. Graduate students can only have 2 C's throughout their entire program. If they get a third C they are suspended.
- Being suspended for academic reasons means you must leave immediately. There is no grace period.



Social Security Number

You must have a job offer to apply for a Social Security Number.
You do not need a social security number unless you are employed. The IPO can provide a letter stating you're not eligible for a SSN should you need such a letter.
Once you have a job offer, make an appointment with the IPO and bring the offer letter to the appointment.
The IPO will arrange transportation to the Social Security Administration for you to apply for your Social Security Number.
You must be in the US for a minimum of 14 days before you can call in for an appointment.
SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER DOES NOT EQUAL WORK AUTHORIZATION



Employment

- On campus work:
 - Up to 20 hours per week during the semester
 - Over 20 hours per week during breaks and summer
 - You are eligible for "student-labor" positions.
- Handshake is the number one place for DSU students and alumni to search for jobs and internships. <u>Log</u> <u>in</u> today and explore!
- <u>LOG IN TO HANDSHAKE</u>-- THIS CAN ONLY BE ACCESSED ONCE YOU HAVE REGISTERED FOR CLASSES.



Off-Campus Employment

Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

• Internship required for your academic program

Optional Practical Training (OPT)

• Professional work experience in your field at the end of your program

**to be eligible for either CPT or OPT, you must have been in valid F-1 status for at least 9 months/academic year before your work experience begins or you apply.

DO NOT ACCEPT EMPLOYMENT or BEGIN WORKING OFF-CAMPUS WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION FROM THE IPO OR THE US GOVERNMENT! THIS WILL BE AN AUTOMATIC TERMINATION OF YOUR VISA WITHOUT ANY CHANCE OF REINSTATEMENT.



Report I-20 Changes

- Report any change of address, major, degree level, financial source, or name to the IPO within <u>10 days</u> of the change.
 - Email the update to: <u>international@dsu.edu</u>





Driver's License & Driving in South Dakota

In order to obtain a South Dakota driver's license or state identification card, you must apply in person at the Department of Motor Vehicles.

- Madison DMV 209 First Street NE Madison, SD 57042
 - Open Tuesdays 9:00am 3:45pm

if you have a driver's license in your home country, it is wise to also get an <u>International Driving Permit</u>. These two documents will help you get your South Dakota Driver's License which is required if you wish to operate a motorized vehicle. you may use your international license/permit for up to 90 days in South Dakota.

If you purchase a vehicle, you are required by South Dakota state law to also purchase car insurance.

Traveling Outside the U.S.

- You must obtain a "travel authorization" on your I-20 if you intend to return to DSU.
- Only the IPO staff can sign for travel on your I-20.
- Signature is good for 12 months





Extension of Stay

Your I-20 must be valid during your program in the U.S.

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Grace Period

After completion of your study or post completion work authorization, you can remain in the U.S. up to 60 days to prepare for departure.

Completion of studies is NOT determined by the I-20 or visa stamp expiration date—it is determined by the completion of your academic requirements.



What if I Don't Follow the Rules?

Failure to comply with the above stated immigration regulations, university policies, and South Dakota state laws will result in the termination of your student status!

A termination will leave permanent mark on your immigration record.

It is YOUR responsibility to know the regulations of your visa. If unsure, check with the IPO, not the internet or your friends.



Reinstatement



If you fall out of status, you must apply to USCIS for reinstatement in order to legally stay in the U.S. and continue your studies.

The decision to reinstate you is completely at the discretion of USCIS

f you are denied the reinstatement, you must depart from the U.S. without completing your degree program.

Reinstatement is not always an option. Working off campus without permission is one example where reinstatement is not possible.



Key Points to Remember

It is YOUR responsibility to know and follow the rules to maintain your status.

Do NOT rely on your friends, other students, or the internet for clarification of the regulations.

Keep all original I-20s.

ALWAYS CONSULT WITH THE IPO STAFF IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS!

Fall 2022



DSU Tutoring

DSU offers individual and small group tutoring at the Learning Engagement Center, on a walk in basis. They also offer online tutoring.

Accounting, English, Mathematics, Statistics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science, Networking, Programming, and Hardware Courses.



Off-Campus Housing

If you have been out of secondary school for more than two years, you are eligible to live offcampus. You can locate available off-campus housing by searching the Madison Daily Leader's online: <u>http://www.dailyleaderextra.com/classifieds/housing/</u>

If you have any questions regarding your rental lease or contract, please consult the International Programs Office before you sign ANYTHING. We strongly advise you get Renter's Insurance.

On-campus housing is generally NOT available for graduate students. Please contact the Housing office directly to inquire: <u>residencelife@dsu.edu</u>

**If sign-up for on-campus housing, you are contracted for the entire semester—you cannot change your mind. You are required to enroll in a meal plan if you live on campus, as well.



International Programs Office

- Location: Learning Engagement Center
- Telephone: 605-256-5267 or 605-256-5744
- Email: international@dsu.edu
- Website: www.dsu.edu/international
- Call ahead to schedule an appointment- this is very important so we can give you the time you need.



Campus Map







Online Orientation Quiz

Link to quiz <u>https://dsuoiea.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4Mh0TirZIEMDySy</u>

Completing the Online Orientation and Quiz is a requirement of becoming an F 1 student at Dakota State University. You must also enroll in the health insurance plan BEFORE you arrive to the US. If you choose not to complete these requirements, we will not pick you up from the Sioux Falls Airport.

Please forward your Travel Arrangements Document and complete itinerary to <u>international@dsu.edu</u> before August 5th, 2022

Academic Calendar https://catalog.dsu.edu/content.php?catoid=33&navoid=1547

Thank you!

Payment Methods

- Automatic bank payment (ACH)
- = Credit card/dabit card (An additional las will be amount)

Cost to Participate

- = \$40 antoliment fee per semaster (ACH & Gwdt Card)
- # \$30 returned payment fee if a payment is returned

Simple Steps to Enroll

Students:

- Ge to Self-Service Account.
- = Salect SDaPby/View Account/Pby here
- Select Sign up for a Payment Plan.

Authorized Payers:

- Go to https://www.sobocedu/administrative-offices/fact-affaits/Pages/FACTS-Payment-Plan.asps
- · Select Authorized Payers/Parents logint
- Select Sign up for a Payment Plan

Target Dates to Enroll By:

Summer 2021 Payment plan available on May 3, 2021

Last day to entit online	Required down	Mumber of peymants	Mombs of payments
May 21	35%	2	June & July
June 10	50%	1	.July only

Fall 2021 Peyment plan available on July 19, 2021

Last dev te enroll enline	Required down	Number of peymants	Months of payments
GE WILL	none	4	Aug_Nev
Aug 23	none	1	Sept-Nov
Sept 3	35%	2	On & Nev

Spring 2022 Payment plan available on November 22, 2021

Lost day to entroll entine	Required down	Number of payments	Momhs of poyments
Dec 31	none	4	Jan April
Jan 10	none	3	Feb-April
Jen 20	35%	2	March & April

NOTE: All down payments are processed immediately! Payments processed on the 5th of each month.



You should review your agreement balance online or call Delote State University Cashier's Office at 605.256.5133 to confirm changes.

www.MyCollegePaymentPlan.com/sdbor