



U.S. Immigration
 and Customs
 Enforcement

Draft Bridged Degree Programs Fact Sheet

This fact sheet is a companion to Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) Policy Guidance for Adjudicators 1210-03: Pathway Programs. This fact sheet is for bridged degree programs only. A bridged degree program is a postsecondary, degree program of study that combines nonremedial and remedial coursework as part of the structure or a special track of the degree program. A designated school official (DSO) adding a bridge program should review SEVP’s bridge programs fact sheet.

Form I-17, “Petition for Approval of School for Attendance by Nonimmigrant Student,” Instructions

In the following fields in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), a DSO must make these entries depending on the type of bridged degree program.

Bridged Degree Program with No English Language Training (ESL) Component

SEVIS Field #	Text in Field	Entry Information
Item 6	This school is engaged in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check Higher Education
Item 12	Areas of study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check subject areas of study • Check Other, and enter “Bridged (insert <i>Bachelor’s/Master’s/Doctorate level</i> here) Program”
Item 16	Requirements for admission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List individual requirements for admission
Item 17	Courses of study and time necessary to complete each	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List each individual bridged degree program by proficiency reason: “Bridged (insert <i>Bachelor’s/Master’s/Doctorate level</i> here) Program (insert proficiency reason here)” • List the time necessary to complete each individual program • List the main instructional site’s SEVIS school code of any SEVP-certified school where the student is concurrently enrolled as part of the bridged degree program, if applicable

Bridged Degree Program with an ESL Component where ESL Instruction Is Executed by the School

SEVIS Field #	Text in Field	Entry Information
Item 6	This school is engaged in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check Language Training and Higher Education
Item 10	Accreditations and Recognitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If different from the school’s accrediting agency, list the agency accrediting the ESL portion of the program under Department of Education Recognized Accrediting Agencies
Item 12	Areas of study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check subject areas of academic study • Check Language and Other • Next to Other, enter “Bridged (insert <i>Bachelor’s/Master’s/Doctorate level</i> here) Program-ESL”
Item 14	Select as appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check that the school is engaged in English language training
Item 16	Requirements for admission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List individual requirements for admission, including any ESL proficiency requirements different from a typical degree program of study
Item 17	Courses of study and time necessary to complete each	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List each individual bridged degree program by proficiency reason: “Bridged (insert <i>Bachelor’s/Master’s/Doctorate level</i> here) Program-ESL (insert proficiency reason here)” • List the time necessary to complete each individual program • List the main instructional site’s SEVIS school code of any SEVP-certified school where the student is concurrently enrolled as part of the bridged degree program, if applicable

Bridged Degree Program with an ESL Component where ESL Instruction Is Executed via Concurrent Enrollment

SEVIS Field #	Text in Field	Entry Information
Item 6	This school is engaged in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check Higher Education
Item 10	Accreditations and Recognitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Optional Accreditation Comments field, enter as follows: <i>“Bridged (insert Bachelor’s/Master’s/Doctorate level here) Program-ESL (insert proficiency reason)” (must exactly match one of the bridged degree programs on field 17 on the school’s SEVIS record), name of SEVP-certified school at which the student is concurrently enrolled for ESL instruction, the concurrent enrollment school’s main instructional site SEVIS school code and the name of the concurrent enrollment school’s ESL Department of Education Recognized Accrediting Agency (do not list this accrediting agency elsewhere)</i>

Item 12	Areas of study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check subject areas of academic study • Check Other, and enter “Bridged (insert <i>Bachelor’s/Master’s/Doctorate level</i> here) Program-ESL”
Item 16	Requirements for admission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List individual requirements for admission, including any ESL proficiency requirements different from a typical degree program of study
Item 17	Courses of study and time necessary to complete each	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List each individual bridged degree program by proficiency reason: “Bridged (insert <i>Bachelor’s/Master’s/Doctorate level</i> here) Program-ESL (insert proficiency reason here)” • List the time necessary to complete each individual program • List the main instructional site’s SEVIS school code of any SEVP-certified school where the student is concurrently enrolled as part of the bridged degree program, if applicable (note: do not repeat any SEVIS school code already listed above in item 10)

Bridged Degree Program Evidence Requirements

All schools must provide a list of each individual bridged degree program by proficiency reason as listed on the Form I-17.¹ For each individual bridged degree program provide:

- Admission requirements.
- Time necessary to complete the program.
- Full course of study requirements, including any evidence relating to concurrent enrollment.
- Education level for which the program is preparing students.
- Proof of accreditation, if applicable. Provide a letter from accrediting body confirming accreditation covers by name the specific bridged degree program.
- Evidence in lieu of accreditation, if applicable.
- Proof of compliance with the Accreditation of English Language Training Programs Act,² if applicable. Evidence of accreditation must list the specific bridged degree programs(s) by name.
- Additional evidence relating to third parties, if applicable:
 - List of each third party for each individual bridged degree program.
 - The SEVIS school code of the third party’s main instructional site, if an SEVP-certified school.
 - Copies of all arrangements or agreements between the school and third party relating to the administration and operation of the bridged degree program.

¹ This list must exactly match what is provided in field 17 on the school’s SEVIS record (field 19 on the Form I-17).

² 8 USC 1101(a)(15)(F) and (52).

- Statement showing detailed explanation of chain of command and delegation of responsibilities for all entities and personnel involved in the bridged degree program, including any third parties.

SEVP may request additional evidence regarding bridged degree programs.

Form I-20, “Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status,” Instructions

Form I-20 Issuance

Printed Form I-20 #	Text in Field	Entry Information
Item 4	Level of education the student is pursuing or will pursue in the United States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select the education level that the student is pursuing (i.e., bachelor’s, master’s, or doctorate)
Item 5	The student named above has been accepted for a full course of study at this school, majoring in...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enter the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code under “Primary Major Code” as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For a Pathway Program with an ESL component, enter 32.XXXX ○ For any other Pathway Program, enter 32.XXXX³ • Under “Secondary Major Code,” enter the CIP code for the degree program of study to which the student is fully admitted (if the student is fully admitted to an additional major, enter the CIP code for that degree program of study under “Minor Code”) • Enter the program start date for the date on which the student is expected to begin the bridged degree program of study. Enter the program end date for the date on which the student is expected to complete the degree program of study.
Item 9	Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enter “Bridged (insert <i>Bachelor’s/Master’s/Doctorate</i> level here) Program (insert proficiency reason here)” or “Bridged (insert <i>Bachelor’s/Master’s/Doctorate</i> level here) Program-ESL (insert proficiency reason here),” as applicable (must exactly match one of the bridged degree programs on field 17 on the school’s SEVIS record); and if concurrently enrolled at another SEVP-certified school as part of the bridged degree program, include the SEVIS school code of the instructional site at which the student is studying, as follows: <i>Student is enrolled in bridged (insert Bachelor’s/Master’s/Doctorate here) program (insert proficiency reason here). Student will complete remedial portion of the degree</i>

³ SEVP will select two codes from the 32 CIP code family to denote whether the program is 1) a pathway program with an ESL component or 2) any other pathway program.

		<p><i>program in X months.</i></p> <p>For a student whose program involves concurrent enrollment in another SEVP-certified school as part of the bridged degree program for that session, insert the following:</p> <p><i>Student is attending (insert SEVIS school code) as part of this program.</i></p> <p>This information must be updated each session.</p>
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Form I-20 Maintenance

A DSO must update the remarks field on the student’s Form I-20 each session to reflect whether the student is currently part of a bridged degree program and whether the student is concurrently enrolled in another SEVP-certified school as part of the bridged degree program. This includes removing such notation if the student is not concurrently enrolled at another SEVP-certified school for that session.

Upon completion of the “remedial” portion of the bridged degree program, a DSO must:

- Change the student’s “Primary Major,” “Secondary Major” and “Minor” CIP codes to the student’s nonremedial degree program(s) of study
- Remove any notations on the student’s remarks field pertaining to the bridged degree program.

DSOs with questions about how to change education level should refer to SEVP’s [User Manual for School Users of SEVIS: Form I-20](#).