U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

SEVIS 6.35 Pre-Release Webinar FAQs

Date FAQs Released: **Initial release of FAQs.**

Recertification/Certification Expiration Date

Q: **As a sponsoring organization, is recertification different from the redesignation process?**

A: Yes:

- Recertification in the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) refers to continued enrollment of F-1 and/or M-1 students. This is regulated by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), primarily in Title 8 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 214.3 and 214.4.
- Designation is sponsorship of J-1 exchange visitors by sponsoring programs, which is regulated by the Department of State in 22 CFR 62.

Q: **I need to submit a Form I-17 update, but our recertification is due in the near future. Should I wait and submit both together?**

A: No, you do not need to wait. Material changes to information on your Form I-17 must be reported within 21 days of the change.

Keep this in mind when preparing to file petition updates. If there are changes to ownership or instructional site information, these changes must be included in a petition update.

Q: **I have a Form I-17 update pending, and my recertification is due in the near future. Should I wait and submit both together?**

A: You do not need to wait or cancel the pending update. SEVP retains a list of schools with pending updates and future certification expiration dates. SEVP will update the certification expiration date (CED) in cases where the adjudication of those updates extends beyond the CED.

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Q: **I am in the recertification process and want to add a designated school official (DSO). Is this considered an update?**

A: Yes.

Note: See the DSO Update Process Fact Sheet on ICE.gov for an explanation of the SEVP process for submitting new principal designated school officials (PDSOs) and designated school officials (DSOs), and changing P/DSO information.

Q: **How long do we have to submit the complete recertification package?**

A: Two business days after submitting the recertification in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS).

Q: **Where do you find the certification expiration date? Is the CED on the Form I-17?**

A: The certification expiration date is in SEVIS on the *School Information* page; and not on the Form I-17.

Q: **Currently our certification expiration date is listed as 07/07/7777. Is this because of the pending update?**

A: No, before the release all CEDs displayed as an automatic (fake) date due to system limitations. The fake date denoted your recertification "cycle." However, after the release on July 21, 2017, SEVIS automatically assigns and displays the correct date/actual CED. This is based on you initial certification.

Q: **If our recertification application is pending, can we request an instructional site addition be added during the recertification process? Do we need to wait until the recertification is approved; and then request an addition of an instructional site?**

A: If your petition is locked due to a pending update or pending recertification, changes must be requested by email to update.sevis@ice.dhs.gov or recert.sevis@ice.dhs.gov. SEVP will file these changes with your locked petition and adjudicate them all at once.

Q: **If undergoing recertification right now, should I submit an update?**

A: SEVIS will not allow schools to submit petition updates, if the school is pending recertification.

Q: **Will the new CED feature replace the email notifications?**

A: Schools will still receive emails from SEVIS about their petitions.

Upload Evidence

Q: **Will uploading evidence affect SEVIS performance?**

A: We do not have any indication that the upload functionality will negatively affect SEVIS performance.

Q: **How will SEVP notify schools that the upload evidence functionality is active?**

A: SEVP will schedule an Upload Evidence Webinar before the functionality goes live.

STEM OPT

Q: **If a student changes jobs on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) optional practical training (OPT), will that affect the STEM self-evaluation?**

A: If a student changes employers during the STEM extension, this is considered a material change. A new Form I-983, "Training Plan for STEM OPT Students," must be submitted to the DSO within 10 days of beginning the new position. The DSO must add a new employer in SEVIS. A student on a 24-month, STEM OPT extension must submit their first evaluation to the DSO within one year and 10 days of the first day of the validity period on the employment authorization document (EAD), even if the student switched employers. The second and final evaluation must be submitted within 10 days of the conclusion of the student's STEM OPT opportunity.

Q: **What if, despite our best efforts to obtain the self-evaluations, STEM OPT students do not submit them?**

A: In order to maintain F-1 nonimmigrant status, the STEM OPT student must submit all required materials to their DSO on a timely basis. This includes the annual self-evaluation. The due dates for submitting the self-evaluations are:

- **First self-evaluation:** Within one year and 10 days of the first day of the validity period on the EAD.
- **Final self-evaluation:** Within 10 days of the conclusion to the student's STEM OPT opportunity.

Failure to submit the self-evaluations constitute a violation of the student's F-1 nonimmigrant status.

Q: **For the checkbox that the DSO uses to indicate receipt of student's STEM self-evaluation, will there be any way to get a report from SEVIS showing which students' records have that checkbox checked?**

A: Currently, SEVP does not have any plans to provide a report with this information. SEVP will take this into consideration. We may be able to update a current student list with this information.

Q: **Is there a chance that students will soon be able to report any changes in their employment and address (STEM self-evaluation)?**

A: SEVP continues to work on the SEVP Portal. The first release will enable students on OPT to report changes to certain information. Expansion beyond the first release has not been finalized. Stay tuned for more information about the SEVP Portal.

Q: **Will SEVIS be emailing students directly when their self-evaluations are due?**

A: Currently, SEVP does not have any plans to email students directly about their self-evaluations.

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Q: **Will the STEM Evaluation checkbox be added to the batch schema?**

A: Currently, SEVP does not have any plans to update the batch schema with this information.