

To: All SEVIS users

Date: June 9, 2015

Re: Temporary Absence and Changes to Authorized Early Withdrawal Requests for Correction to Student Status

Number: 1506-04

Comments

To comment on this Broadcast Message, please email SEVP@ice.dhs.gov with “Broadcast Message 1506-04 Comment” entered in the subject line.

General Information

The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) is changing when it will accept designated school officials (DSOs) “Requests for Correction to Student Status.” Starting Friday, June 12, 2015, DSOs can submit requests to change an F-1 student’s Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) record to Active, up to 60 days in advance of the student’s return from a temporary absence.

This change is based on stakeholder feedback SEVP received. Previously, DSOs could only make such requests up to 30 days before the date the student intends to enroll in classes. Now, DSOs will be able to initiate these correction requests up to 60 days before the date the student is scheduled to return and enroll. The SEVP Response Center will begin processing the requests up to 60 days before the student’s session start date in SEVIS to allow for timely completion.

When an F-1 student must take time away from school due to unforeseen circumstances (i.e., a family emergency) at a time when the student would otherwise be required to enroll in classes to maintain status, the student’s SEVIS record must be set to Terminated for Authorized Early Withdrawal. This occurs when the F-1 student is not eligible for annual vacation or reduced course load and the student’s program of study is in session. With a terminated SEVIS record, the student must spend temporary absence outside the United States.

When the student is ready to return and re-enroll, the student must first get approval from their SEVP-certified school. Once approved by their SEVP-certified school, the DSO should go into the student’s SEVIS record and request a Correction to Student Status back to Active status. The DSO may now make this request up to 60 days before the student’s next session start date in SEVIS.

Please note, the absence must be shorter than five months and the purpose for the student’s return must be to enroll in school.

In addition to improving SEVIS data integrity, SEVP hopes that this process improvement will have a positive impact on our stakeholder community.

Please contact the SRC at sevp@dhs.ice.gov with any questions.

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