

F & M

STUDENT STATUS: KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

F-1 STUDENTS

Are in an academic program, often with a core academic curriculum.

Are eligible for annual vacation.

Can change their major or program of study.

Can transfer anytime during their program or begin a new program after completing one.

Can work during and after their program of study, with permission.

Can participate in up to four types of work including, on-campus, off-campus for economic hardship, curricular practical training (CPT) and optional practical training (OPT).

Can remain in the United States for the duration of their program of study.

Can stay in the United States for up to 60 days after their program or OPT end date.



M-1 STUDENTS

Are in a vocational program, typically without a core academic curriculum.

Are not eligible for annual vacation.

Cannot change their major or program of study.

Can only transfer in the first six months after arrival and must apply to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for transfer by filing Form I-539, "Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status."

Can only work after their program of study ends and with permission.

Can participate in one type of work, practical training (PT), one month for every four months of their program.

Can only remain in the United States for up to one year unless they apply for an extension.

Can stay in the United States for up to 30 days after their program or PT end date.