



## SEVP Special Report Webinar: SEVP Portal Glossary

March 20, 2018

**Designated school official (DSO):** a regularly employed member of the school administration designated by the head of a Student and Exchange Visitor Program-certified school to provide recommendations to F and/or M students enrolled at the school regarding maintenance of nonimmigrant status, and to support timely and complete record keeping and reporting to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

**Form I-20, "Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status:"** the form issued to an F or M nonimmigrant to be used as authorization for admission in and maintenance of nonimmigrant status for the duration of their visit in the United States.

**Form I-983, "Training Plan for STEM OPT Students:"** a formal training plan that clearly articulates the science, technology, engineering and mathematics optional practical training student's learning objectives and affirms the employer's commitment to helping the student achieve those objectives.

**Optional practical training (OPT):** training that is not an integral part of the established curriculum. OPT does not fulfill requirements of an F-1 student's program of study and successful program completion is not contingent on participation in OPT. OPT may include:

- Pre-completion OPT
- Post-completion OPT
- 24-month extension of post-completion OPT
- H-1B cap gap

**Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM):** STEM programs, which are important to innovation and job creation in the United States.

**SEVP Response Center (SRC):** the primary contact at the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) for nonimmigrant students, academic institutions, government users of the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), and the general public requesting guidance, data corrections and information on how to use SEVIS.

**Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS):** an internet-based application that facilitates timely electronic reporting and monitoring of international students and exchange visitors, as well as their dependents, in the United States. This application enables schools and program sponsors to transmit electronic information to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of State throughout a student's or exchange visitor's program in the United States.

**Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP):** a part of the National Security Investigations Division and acts as a bridge for government organizations that have an interest in information on nonimmigrants whose primary reason for coming to the United States is to be students. On behalf of the



## U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

U.S. Department of Homeland Security, SEVP manages schools, nonimmigrant students in the F and M visa classifications and their dependents.

**U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS):** an agency within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that authorizes benefits for students and exchange visitors. Students can request benefits such as employment, an extension of their stay or a change of status from USCIS.

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS):** a federal agency whose missions include preventing terrorism and enhancing security, managing U.S. borders, administering immigration laws, securing cyberspace and ensuring disaster resilience. Through U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Student and Exchange Visitor Program, DHS secures the student visa system.

**U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE):** a U.S. Department of Homeland Security agency that promotes homeland security and public safety through the criminal and civil enforcement of federal laws governing border control, customs, trade and immigration. Through the Student and Exchange Visitor Program, ICE helps secure the foreign student visa system.