



SEVIS 6.25 Pre-Release Webinar FAQs (March 4, 2016)

March 28, 2016 – Initial release of FAQs

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General Questions and Unresolved Issues

- Q: Was SEVIS Release 6.25 originally scheduled for June 2016?**
A: We have had to schedule additional releases, so the numbering has changed. The content of the June 2016 Release has not changed, but the SEVIS release number has. SEVIS 6.25 was released on Friday, March 18, 2016. The June 2016 Release is now SEVIS 6.27.
- Q: Are summaries of the webinars emailed to participants?**
A: No, webinar recordings are posted to the SEVIS Help Hub within a week, and the FAQs are posted within 30 days.
- Q: Has SEVP fixed the issue that occurs when SEVIS auto-completes a record that was in consular processing?**
A: SEVP is aware of the problem and is currently working on a solution. The issue has not yet been resolved.
- Q: After the June 2016 Release, will SEVIS registrations require the student’s United States address to be validated?**
A: As of June 2016, SEVIS will require a U.S. address for continuing registration. The address does not have to be validated if the validation software is not available.
- Q: When attempting a mass reprint of records, the results are smaller than requested. Can this issue be resolved?**
A: Please email this issue to SEVIStechnicalfeedback@ice.dhs.gov. Include your search criteria and the download results.
- Q: Will the Transfer Out search improvements work the same for both F-1 and J-1 searches?**
A: No, the transfer changes will only apply to F-1 and M-1 students.



Q: Would it be possible to add a student email column to alert lists in a future upgrade?

A: This and other upgrade suggestions should be emailed to SEVIStechnicalfeedack@ice.dhs.gov.

OPT and STEM OPT

Q: Has a date been determined for students who have been auto-terminated due to excessive periods of unemployment while on OPT?

A: We do not have a date set for turning on this function. SEVP will notify DSOs before it happens.

Q: Considering the time it takes for USCIS to process H-1B petitions, will school officials still be able to extend the OPT until the same date in June, as they have previously?

A: Yes, DSOs can request cap gap extensions, as they have in the past.

Q: Is there a way to remove STEM students from the alert list for “Students who have Approved OPT without Current Employer Information,” as their employer information is already in their records from when they applied for the STEM extension?

A: Students who are employed appear on this list when the Employer Start or End Date is outside the range of the Actual OPT Start or End Date approved by USCIS. This happens when a DSO entered employer information before USCIS approves the OPT, and:

- The Actual OPT Start Date is later than the Start Date with the employer and/or
- The Actual OPT End Date is earlier than the End Date with the employer.

Workaround: DSOs should edit the Start and End Dates for the position, so the dates are in the range of the Actual OPT Start and End Dates.

Q: When recommending a student for STEM extension, are we required to go back and add previous employer information?

A: No. It is not required. However, adding previous employer information may make the STEM extension process easier for the student.

Cap Gap

Q: Will the dates on the OPT Request page change for those who have been automatically or manually granted a Cap Gap extension?

A: The OPT End Date that displays will reflect the end of their Cap Gap extension, regardless of how the date was granted.

Q: Does SEVIS shorten F-1 status, and any authorized OPT, to the date of a rejection letter, as stated in the Cap Gap User Guide?



A: Existing OPT end dates and the 60-day grace period do not change, if these dates come after the date of the letter. If those dates occur before the date of the letter, the F-1 status is shortened to the date of the letter.

Q: Does the Cap Gap apply to M-1 students?

A: No, the Cap Gap only applies to F-1 students.

Q: Will SEVIS automatically insert or flag Cap Gap information on a student record, or will the DSO have to manually add it?

A: It is recommended that the DSO manually add this information to the student's record. Due to the large number of Cap Gap applications, it takes time for USCIS to process them into CLAIMS. Since SEVIS does not have the CLAIMS information, it cannot automatically update the student record. This is why the DSO can mark the student's record as Filed. With a statement from the employer saying that he/she has properly filed a petition for the student, the DSO can go into the student's record and notate the record.

Q: Are there instructions on how to add OPT employment into SEVIS? Should I edit the employment entry that was automatically placed on the student's record by SEVIS, which says "Unemployment," or should I click "Add Employment?"

A: You can either edit the entry automatically placed on the student's record by SEVIS, or you can delete it and then click **Add Employment**. Please refer to the [Add, Edit, Delete OPT Employer](#) page in the [SEVIS Help Hub](#) for instructions on how to add employer information.

Q: Will SEVP develop a list for students on Cap Gap so DSOs know which students have a Cap Gap extension?

A: Yes, [SEVP](#) will develop a list.

Form I-20

Q: Is the new Form I-20 in SEVIS and ready for issuance?

A: Yes, the updated Form I-20 is currently in SEVIS.

Q: When was the new Form I-20 released?

A: The new Form I-20 was released on June 29, 2015.

Q: What is the deadline for students to be issued the new Form I-20?

A: The deadline is July 1, 2016.

Q: When will the downloadable report for mass reprints be available?

A: The report was available in the March 2016 Release.

Q: Are there instructions on how to reprint the Form I-20 all at once?

A: Yes, the [Request Mass Reprint of Forms I-20](#) instructions are on the [SEVIS Help Hub](#).



Q: What students are included on the downloadable report “Students and Dependents Without a Record of an Updated Form I-20?”

A: If you selected a reason when you reprinted a student’s Form I-20, that student will not be on the report list. Also, students whose records were created after the release of the new Form I-20 will not be on the list.

The downloadable report of **Students and Dependents Without a Record of an Updated Form I-20** will include:

- Students who have never had the updated Form I-20 reprinted, and
- Students who had their Form I-20 reprinted as result of an update to their record.

Q: What does it mean if a student has a bar code on their Form I-20?

A: If a student’s Form I-20 has a barcode, you will need to print out a new form for them. The new Form I-20 does not have a barcode.

Q: Do dollar amounts on Form I-20 Finance section have to be rounded to the nearest dollar?

A: Yes, Form I-20 instructions state that dollar amounts should be rounded to the nearest dollar.

Email Addresses and Phone Numbers

Q: In which SEVIS release will emails and phone numbers be required?

A: Emails and phone numbers will be required in the June 2016 Release.

Q: When student email addresses and phone numbers become mandatory for registration with the SEVIS 6.27 Release in June 2016, will this also be required for current students with active records?

A: Yes, this will apply to all students. Continuing students need to have this information entered into their records, in order for their registration to be updated.

Q: Will there be a report or alert for student records with missing phone numbers?

A: This report is available now. To access the report, *List of Active Students for Whom a Telephone Number and/or E-mail Address is Missing*, click the **Downloads** button on the *Listing of Schools* page.

Q: Will the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 214.3(g) be updated to address reporting of the student’s email addresses and phone numbers?

A: No.