

F & M

STUDENT STATUS: KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

F-1 INTERNATIONAL 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 INTERNATIONAL 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