

Change of Status (to F-1)

If you are currently an international student and interested in changing your status, you have two options to change your status to an F-1 Student Status:

- 1) **Travel to your home country and re-apply for a visa at your country's US Consulate**
- 2) **Apply for a change of status within the US**

Depending on your situation, either scenario could be better for you. Oftentimes, obtaining the I-20 before leaving the US and then applying for a new visa is the quickest method to change your status. If you choose to change your status while in the United States, you should be aware that the process could take between 3-6 months.

If you choose to change your status while staying in the United States, you may enroll in classes as long as you remain within the guidelines for your current visa. For example, an F-2 student may enroll in classes, but not full-time, until their change of status has been approved.

In order to begin the Change of Status process, collect the following documents:

- Form I-539 (Must be completed BEFORE appointment)
- Pay the SEVIS fee (**\$200** via www.fmjfee.com)
- Print out the electronic receipt after paying your SEVIS fee
- Obtain a check or money order for the filing fee payable to: "U.S. Department of Homeland Security" (Usually **\$290**) Visit <http://www.uscis.gov/i-539> for special instructions.
- Letter to accompany the application explaining why you are requesting change of status
- Photocopy of your passport ID page
- Photocopy of your visa page (**CHECK VISA: Expiration date cannot be any more than 30 days before start date on I-20**)
- Photocopy of I-94 card (This can be obtained online now)
- Admission letter from Bluegrass Community & Technical College
- Proof of Financial Support
- New I-20 issued by BCTC

Email Kehla.Vance@kctcs.edu to make an appointment to begin your change of status process!

