Today's Presenters

Samantha McCabe  
(she/her/hers)  
Interim Assistant Dean/Director

Colleen Hutchinson  
(she/her/hers)  
Interim Assistant Director

Morgan J. Keller  
(he/him/his)  
Assistant Director
Before we get started

• Mute your microphone and turn off your video.
• Submit your questions in the Q&A box.
• We do not have all the answers – we will do our best to address your questions and follow up. Your patience and kindness are appreciated!
• This session will be recorded and posted online.
Agenda

• Understand terms we use

• Your Spring 2021 Enrollment and Travel Plan

• (Lack of) Spring 2021 enrollment guidance

• Reduced Course Load eligibility

• Review winter travel recommendations

• Questions from our audience
## I-20 Certificate of Eligibility for F-1 Status

- **Form Issue Reason**
  - Initial
  - Transfer pending
  - Continued

- **Program Start Date**
  - January 25, 2021*
  - Before January 2021 -- continuing student

- **Electronic copy acceptable**
- **Remarks** about in-person instruction *not required*
- **Print and sign in blue ink**
DS-2019 Certificate of Eligibility for J-1 Status

• Form Issue Reason
  • Initial

• Program Start Date
  • January 25, 2021
  • Before January 2021 - continuing student

• No electronic copies!

• Remarks about in-person instruction not required

• Print and sign in blue ink
Your eligibility to enter the U.S.

- Visa Type: F-1 or J-1 / F-2 or J-2 (dependent)
- Entries: M (multiple)
- Expiration Date: Valid for entry with supporting travel documents

Can expire while you are in the U.S.

Students from Canada and Bermuda do not need F/J visa
I-94 Arrival/Departure Record

- U.S. Customs & Border Protection’s (CBP) electronic record of student’s entry to the U.S. by air or sea. If student travels by land to either Mexico or Canada, they will not have one.

- **Class of admission** should match I-20/DS-2019 and read F-1/J-1

- Must read F-1/J-1 to be eligible for full-time study and on-campus work.

- **Admit Until Date** should read D/S (“Duration of Status”)

- D/S allows student to stay in the U.S. as long as I-20/DS-2019 is valid and are maintaining their F-1/J-1 visa status.
What is an in-person class?

An in-person class should have an 'in-person' meeting component, including hybrid courses

- Students should have a Madison-area address
- Independent study, research credits, etc. with need for alternative geographic location is acceptable
Help us help you!

Complete your Spring 2021 Enrollment and Travel Plan in Terra Dotta by November 29, 2020!

You can edit your responses as your plans change

Direct link:
Spring 2021 Enrollment Guidance

As of November 20, 2020, there is no federal guidance specific to Spring 2021.

We continue to operate under the latest guidance from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), dated August 7, 2020.

Updates will be posted to the ISS COVID FAQ page.

https://iss.wisc.edu/students/current-students/health/covid-19-updates/
Spring 2021 Enrollment Guidance – Continuing Student

1. Enroll full-time in remote/online credits

2. Enroll part-time in remote/online credits

3. Take a gap semester (no UW-Madison enrollment)

Follow along on the ISS flowchart for continuing and change of level students!

We are speaking strictly from an immigration standpoint. Departments may have specific requirements.
Option 1: Enroll full-time in remote/online credits

Impact on immigration status: Maintain your F-1 student status

Location: Outside or inside the U.S. (can legally remain in U.S.)

Action by student, only if outside the U.S.:
Submit the ISS Leave of Absence for spring 2021
• Reason: full-time enrollment and maintaining status outside U.S.
• Priority deadline: January 25, 2021
• Absolute deadline: February 22, 2021 (traveling after this date, no form required)
Do not update your U.S. mailing address in SIS

Considerations:
• No in-person/hybrid course enrollment required (100% online/remote ok)
• ISS Reduced Course Load (RCL) is required to drop below full-time
Option 2: Enroll part-time in remote/online credits

Impact on immigration status: F-1 record cannot remain active

Location: Outside the U.S. (Cannot remain in the U.S. on F/J record)

Action by student: Submit the ISS Leave of Absence for spring 2021
• Reason: enrolled in online classes choosing to end F-1 status
• Priority deadline: January 25, 2021
• Absolute deadline: February 22, 2021

Considerations:
• Must submit ISS Reactivation Request before returning to the U.S.
• Full-time enrollment is required when you return.
• Cannot return more than 30 days before start of the semester.
• Eligibility for CPT and OPT may start again if a new SEVIS ID is required.
• No ISS Reduced Course Load required.
Option 3: Take a gap semester

Impact on immigration status: F-1 record cannot remain active

Location: Outside the U.S. (Cannot remain in the U.S. on F/J record)

Action by student: Submit the ISS Leave of Absence for spring 2021
- Reason: not enrolled- taking at least one semester off
- Priority deadline: January 25, 2021
- Absolute deadline: February 22, 2021

Considerations:
- Must submit ISS Reactivation Request before returning to the U.S.
- Full-time enrollment is required when you return.
- Cannot return more than 30 days before start of the semester.
- Eligibility for CPT and OPT may start again if a new SEVIS ID is required.
Study at another school outside the U.S.

- Approval from International Academic Programs (IAP) is required for credit-bearing enrollment
  - You must apply for a waiver to the international travel policy before you travel and enroll. Contact International Academic Programs (IAP) as soon as possible for details about the travel waiver and transfer credit process.

- Dissertators outside the U.S. must enroll for Worldwide, Worldwide Graduate Research Abroad
  - You must apply for a waiver to the international travel policy.
RECAP: Spring 2021 Enrollment Guidance – Continuing Student

3 Options before January 25, 2021:
1. Enroll full-time in remote/online credits
2. Enroll part-time in remote/online credits
3. Take a gap semester (no UW-Madison enrollment)

In-person/hybrid credits not required to maintain status

International travel policy waiver for UW-Madison research abroad or credit-bearing enrollment at another school outside the U.S.

We are speaking strictly from an immigration standpoint. Departments may have specific requirements.
Spring 2021 Enrollment Guidance –
New Student Immigration Record
(Fall 2020 online only enrollment)

1. Arrive for Spring 2021 - ISS Reactivation Request

2. Continue online enrollment - Defer I-20 start date to Fall 2021

3. Take a gap semester (no UW-Madison enrollment)

Follow along on the ISS flowchart for new and transfer-pending students!

We are speaking strictly from an immigration standpoint. Departments may have specific requirements.
Option 1: Arrive for Spring 2021

Impact on immigration status: Establish F-1/J-1 status by entering U.S. before January 25, 2021 (Feb. 5 at latest)

Location: Inside the U.S.

Action by student: Complete International Student Orientation & ISS Check-in in your Terra Dotta portal after entering U.S.
Deadline: January 25, 2021
Absolute deadline: February 5, 2021 (February 22, 2021 for grad students)

Considerations:
• Must enroll for and maintain at least 1 in-person/hybrid credit
• Not eligible for summer 2021 CPT or OPT
Option 2: Continue Online Enrollment

Impact on immigration status: No student immigration record (I-20/DS-2019 program start date must be updated to Fall 2021 by admissions or ISS)

Location: Outside the U.S. (cannot enter U.S. without in-person/hybrid enrollment)

Action by student: Submit the ISS Leave of Absence for spring 2021
• Reason: enrolled in online classes choosing to end F-1 status
Priority deadline: January 25, 2021
Absolute deadline: February 5, 2021

Considerations:
• Your I-20/DS-2019 program start date will be deferred to Fall 2021
• No ISS Reduced Course Load (RCL) required.
Option 3: Take a gap semester

**Impact on immigration status:** No student immigration record (I-20/DS-2019 program start date must be updated to Fall 2021 or later)

**Location:** Outside the U.S. (cannot enter U.S. without in-person/hybrid enrollment)

**Action by student:** Do not enroll for Spring 2021
Drop classes by: January 24, 2021
Apply for re-entry admission for a future semester

**Considerations:**
- Must apply for New F-1/J-1 Student Request before planning travel to UW-Madison
- Full-time enrollment is required when you enroll on campus
- Cannot enter the U.S. more than 30 days before start of the semester
- Eligibility for CPT and OPT does not begin until you enter with your SEVIS ID
RECAP: Spring 2021 Enrollment Guidance – New Student Immigration Record (Fall 2020 OLS (online only) enrollment)

3 Options before January 24, 2021:
1. Arrive for Spring 2021
   1. Minimum 1 credit in-person/hybrid
2. Continue online enrollment
   1. Submit ISS Leave of Absence form
   2. Deferred I-20 program start date from ISS
3. Take a gap semester (no UW-Madison enrollment)

CPT/OPT eligibility may be impacted for summer 2021

We are speaking strictly from an immigration standpoint. Departments may have specific requirements.
Spring 2021 Enrollment Guidance – New Student (no Fall 2020 enrollment)

1. Arrive for Spring 2021

2. Online/Remote enrollment - Defer I-20 start date to Fall 2021

3. Change semester of admission to Fall 2021 or later (no UW-Madison enrollment)

Follow along on the ISS flowchart for new and transfer-pending students!

We are speaking strictly from an immigration standpoint. Departments may have specific requirements.
Option 1: Arrive for Spring 2021

Impact on immigration status: Establish F-1/J-1 status by entering U.S. before January 25, 2021 (Feb. 5 at latest)

Location: Inside the U.S.

Action by student: Complete International Student Orientation & ISS Check-in in your Terra Dotta portal after entry to U.S.
Deadline: January 25, 2021
Absolute deadline: February 5, 2021 (February 22, 2021 for grad students)

Considerations:
• Must enroll for and maintain at least 1 in-person/hybrid credit
• Not eligible for summer 2021 CPT or OPT
Option 2: Online/Remote Enrollment

Impact on immigration status: No student immigration record (I-20/DS-2019 program start date must be updated to Fall 2021 by admissions or ISS)

Location: Outside the U.S. (cannot enter U.S. without in-person/hybrid enrollment)

Action by student: Request I-20/DS-2019 program start date deferral to Fall 2021
Email admitting unit
Priority deadline: January 25, 2021
Absolute deadline: February 5, 2021 (February 22, 2021 for grad students)

Considerations:
- No ISS Reduced Course Load (RCL) required
- Must apply for New F-1/J-1 Student Request before planning travel to UW-Madison
- Full-time enrollment is required when you enroll on campus
- Cannot enter the U.S. more than 30 days before start of the semester
- Eligibility for CPT and OPT does not begin until you enter with your SEVIS ID
Option 3: Change semester of admission

Impact on immigration status: No student immigration record (I-20/DS-2019 program start date must be updated to Fall 2021 by admissions or ISS)

Location: Outside the U.S. (cannot enter U.S. without in-person/hybrid enrollment)

Action by student: Request term change for admission. May be required to re-apply for admission for a future semester.
Email admitting unit
Deadline: January 24, 2021

Considerations:
• Must apply for New F-1/J-1 Student Request before planning travel to UW-Madison
• Full-time enrollment is required when you arrive on campus
• Cannot enter the U.S. more than 30 days before start of the semester
• Eligibility for CPT and OPT does not begin until you enter with your SEVIS ID
RECAP: Spring 2021 Enrollment Guidance
– New Student
(no Fall 2020 enrollment)

3 Options before January 24, 2021:
1. Arrive for Spring 2021
   1. Minimum 1 credit in-person/hybrid
2. Enroll online/remote credits
   1. Defer I-20 program start date with admitting unit
3. Change semester of admission (no UW-Madison enrollment)
   1. Defer I-20 program start date with admitting unit

We are speaking strictly from an immigration standpoint. Departments may have specific requirements.
How to get an I-20- new & returning students

New F-1 Student Request
• No current UW-Madison I-20 with January 25, 2021 program start date
• Processed by admissions or ISS
• Request can be made at any time (most automatically issued and updated by ISS)
• Proof of in-person enrollment (min. 1 credit) required for visa interview and entry to U.S.

Reactivation Request
• SEVIS record is in terminated status for "authorized early withdrawal" or "transfer student no-show"
• Approval by Student & Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)
• Request can only be made 60 days before semester start
• Proof of in-person enrollment (min. 1 credit) required at time of request
## Who issues the I-20?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEGREE LEVEL</th>
<th>OFFICE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Student</td>
<td>Office of Undergraduate Admissions &amp; Recruitment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Student</td>
<td>Graduate Admissions Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin School of Business Graduate Student</td>
<td>Graduate Admissions Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law School</td>
<td>International Student Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Medicine and Public Health</td>
<td>International Student Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Pharmacy</td>
<td>International Student Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterinary Medicine</td>
<td>International Student Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visiting International Student</td>
<td>Visiting International Student Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special/Non-degree Students</td>
<td>Visiting International Student Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English as a Second Language (ESL)</td>
<td>International Student Services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ISS Reduced Course Load (RCL) Approvable Reasons

Academic Difficulties – Can only be used one time per degree level. You must remain in at least half of your full-time enrollment requirement.

• Initial difficulty with the English language (only acceptable in your first year on campus)
• Initial difficulty with reading requirements (only acceptable in your first year on campus)
• Unfamiliarity with U.S. teaching methods (only acceptable in your first year on campus)
• Improper course level placement
ISS Reduced Course Load (RCL) Approvable Reasons

Medical condition –

• May be used for up to 12 months, but must be applied for each semester.

• You may enroll in any number of credits your medical professional recommends for you.

• If your medical professional recommends you to enroll in 0 credit hours, you must complete the Registrar’s Office Withdrawal Form.

• Only the following medical professionals can recommend you for a medical reduced course load:
  
  • licensed U.S. medical doctor, doctor of osteopathy, or licensed clinical psychologist

• Your medical professional must provide you a letter, on letterhead, to substantiate the illness or medical condition and recommendation to reduce your course load.
ISS Reduced Course Load (RCL) Approvable Reasons

• Final Semester of Study
  • If you need less than a full-time course load to complete your program of study in your final semester. (If you are enrolled in summer semester, that is your final semester.)

• Coursework completed
  • This option is only available for PhD and Master’s students.
  • You must have completed all coursework and have only your thesis/comprehensive examination (Master’s) or preliminary examination (PhD).
  • At a minimum, you must enroll in 2 graduate level (300+) credits. Check with your academic department and the Graduate School Academic Policy on enrollment requirements.
  • PhD students whose dissertator status is still pending at the start of the semester should apply for this authorization.
ISS Reduced Course Load (RCL) Unapprovable Examples

- Fear of poor grades
- Dissatisfaction with online learning

RCL approvable reasons are defined by federal regulations.

ISS is here to work with you and your department to determine your eligibility for an RCL within the federal regulations.

You have the option to end your status and drop below full-time
The University International Travel Resources, Guidelines and Policies ("Travel Policy") expresses UW-Madison’s dedication to the vibrant opportunities that grow from international education, research, and outreach.

This policy attempts to mitigate risk present in many parts of the world with reasonable consideration for planned travel to destinations where there is heightened risk. It is not a constraint on your plans, but instead is a process that describes the university’s interest in ensuring your safety and security in the international environment.
Travel Guidance for Students

• Consider the necessity of your travel
• Review global travel advisories
• Check the validity of your immigration documents. Electronic I-20s are acceptable. Original DS-2019s are required.
• Consider purchasing insurance plans for your travel
• Return by the start date of spring classes: January 25, 2021
Travel Restrictions

• There are travel restrictions and guidance around the globe. We recommend you review the COVID-19 Travel Recommendations from the Center for Disease Control.

• Travel bans still exist as well. Please see info on our website: [https://iss.wisc.edu/students/current-students/travel/travel-bans/](https://iss.wisc.edu/students/current-students/travel/travel-bans/)

• Other countries may restrict travel to the U.S.
Entry to U.S.

- Admittance to the U.S. is at the discretion of CBP officers. We always advise students to take their immigration documents with them.
  - Valid Passport
  - Valid F-1 visa
  - Proof of I-901 payment
  - Proof of full-time enrollment (download from Student Center)
    - New students require min. 1 in-person/hybrid credit
  - Travel with most recently issued I-20/DS-2019
    - New I-20 will be electronically issued and uploaded to their Terra Dotta portal
Enrollment letters hybrid instruction

General letter of hybrid instruction available on ISS COVID FAQ page for download


Specialized enrollment letters are not currently available because enrollment has not opened.
COVID Testing Requirements

• Medical clearance letters and/or test results
  • Contact uhs.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment or call 608-265-5600 for further evaluation.

• China's IgM antibody test requirement
  • Test not widely/readily available (locally or nationally)
  • UHS identifying accessible option, more info TBA
  • UW Health does not offer IgM antibody test
  • UHS & ISS contacted Chinese consulate in Chicago for assistance
Where can I go for more information?

• COVID-19 Updates FAQs page
• Newsletters
  • Biweekly newsletter *Just Issued* for current students
  • New student newsletters going out on 12/18, 1/1, and 1/15
• Terra Dotta and website announcements
• Social media
  • Facebook, Instagram, Twitter
• Course enrollment and academic matters – Academic advisor
• Tuition and billing – Bursar’s Office
• Financial hardship and emergency funding – Office of Student Financial Aid