

UTSA International Services

Office of Global Initiatives

Dear Student,

International Services is taking this opportunity to share the latest immigration requirements and regulations issued by the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS). As a continuing student in the United States, there are many important aspects of maintaining your F-1 visa status. Below are some important reminders of required and optional processes.

Fall 2022 Immigration Updates for Continuing Students

Enrollment Requirements for Students in the United States Prior to March 2020 (Before the Pandemic)

1. Undergraduate students must be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours.
 - a. All classes can be online, in-person, or hybrid (any combination is permitted)
2. Graduate students must be enrolled in at least 9 credit hours.
 - a. All classes can be online, in-person, or hybrid (any combination is permitted)
3. Academic English Program students must be enrolled in at least 4 courses.

Enrollment Requirements for Students in the United States After March 2020 (During the Pandemic)

1. Undergraduate students must be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours.
 - a. Minimum of 9 credit hours must be in-person or hybrid
 - b. Maximum of 1 online course per 12 credit hours
2. Graduate students must be enrolled in at least 9 credit hours.
 - a. Minimum of 6 credit hours must be in-person or hybrid
 - b. Maximum of 1 online course per 9 credit hours

Graduating Students who Require Less than Full-Time Credit Hours

1. If you are graduating during the current semester and do not require a full-course of study, then make sure to apply for the Reduced Course Load before the beginning of the semester. Login to the Student Request Portal and submit the Reduced Course Load Request. **Portal:** <https://international.utsa.edu>

Students who have an I-20 Expiring in August or December 2022 but will not Graduate

1. If your I-20 expires in August or December 2022 and you will not graduate, then make sure to apply for the Extension of Stay prior to the end date listed on the I-20. Failure to apply on-time may negatively impact your immigration status.
2. Submit the Extension of Stay Request in the Student Request Portal. Portal: <https://international.utsa.edu>
3. Download or pick up the CPT approved I-20 from the International Services office. Main Building 1.210.

Curricular Practical Training (CPT) is Required to Participate in an Off-Campus Internship/Employment

1. CPT is temporary employment authorization for paid or unpaid employment directly related to an F-1 student's academic program. The employment/internship must count towards UTSA

course credit. First, an academic advisor must confirm credit availability in the student's degree plan (i.e. required elective credit such as independent study). Once it is confirmed that the employment/internship will count as UTSA course credit, the student should submit the request in the Student Request Portal. **Portal:** <https://international.utsa.edu>

2. Do not begin employment until International Student and Scholar Services has issued and provided you with the CPT approved I-20.
3. Download or pick up the CPT approved I-20 from the International Services office. Main Building 1.210.

Optional Practical Training (OPT)

1. Students who are graduating can apply for OPT up to 90 days prior to graduation.
2. The latest a graduating student can apply for OPT is up to 60 days after graduation during the grace period after the I-20 end date.
3. It is recommended to apply early as USCIS processing times are subject to change without notice.
4. Submit your OPT request in the Student Request Portal. Portal: <https://international.utsa.edu>
5. Create your USCIS online account (www.uscis.gov)
6. Pay the OPT Request fee in Rowdy Pay (\$150)
7. Request an appointment with an International Student Advisor to review and submit your OPT request to USCIS.
8. Submit OPT request to USCIS through their online submission system (\$410)

Social Security (REQUIRED IF YOU HAVE A JOB)

1. Students who have an on-campus job but do not have a social security number will need to request a social security number.
2. Login to the Student Request Portal and complete the letter request option for social security.
3. Download or pick up the letter from the International Services office. Main Building 1.210.

Texas Driver's License

1. Login to the Student Request Portal and complete the letter request option for social security.
2. Download or pick up the letter from the International Services office. Main Building 1.210.

Health Insurance

1. Fall coverage begins September 1 and ends December 31.
2. Cost is \$1107
3. If you have non-UTSA provided insurance and want to apply for the insurance waiver, make sure to upload your request in the waiver portal before the deadline of September 13, 2022. Waiver Portal: <https://utsa.myahpcare.com/waiver>
4. Visit the Academic Health Plans website to obtain insurance related information, digital insurance cards, talk with customer support, enroll your dependents or add optional coverages such as dental or vision.
 - a. **Academic Health Plans:** www.utsa.myahpcare.com

5. Insurance cards will be mailed to the address listed in your ASAP account. If this address is incorrect, make sure to update as soon as possible to avoid losing the insurance card and other important documents.
6. It is important to contact Academic Health Plans regarding the insurance policy and benefits as UTSA International Services have limited knowledge.

Welcome Week Activities

- August 19 – Making Friends from Around the World (UTSA Oval near the Bus Stop)
 - 5:00pm – 7:00pm

Best regards,

International Services | **The University of Texas at San Antonio**

Office of Global Initiatives

Tel: (210) 458-7202

Fax: (210) 458-7222

Web [Global Initiatives](#)

Learn more about our [Research 1 Status](#) and our [International Pathway](#).