



BA-PIER Meeting

Thursday, December 3rd, 2020, 1:00pm-3:00pm

Agenda

- I. **Welcome & Housekeeping**, Becky Petrow, BA-PIER Chair (5 mins)
- II. **SEVP Updates and Q&A Session**, Tiffany Coyne, SEVP Field Representative (30 mins)
- III. **Other Business**, Becky Petrow, BA-PIER Chair (5 mins)
- IV. **Roundtable Discussion** (80 mins max)

SEVP Updates

- **COVID-19 Guidance – Spring 2021:** The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) has not issued guidance to international students and schools for the Spring 2021 semester. We understand international students and schools have questions, and SEVP is actively working to issue guidance. In the meantime, the temporary procedural adaptations that permit international students to engage in remote learning are still in place through the fall session. As soon as SEVP finalizes guidance for the spring term, the academic community will be updated. Stakeholders will receive information through a variety of communication channels, and information will be updated on U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) COVID-19 resource page under the Nonimmigrant Students and SEVP-Certified Schools section.
- **D/S Rule:** DHS must review all public comments before finalizing the rule, so certain aspects or elements could change before implementation of the final rule. Duration of Status NPRM – closed for public comment on 10/26/2020 at <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-09-25/pdf/2020-20845.pdf>
- **Annual User Verification Reminder:** December 2 through March 2, 2021
 - Confirms that each SEVIS user associated with your SEVP-certified school is still employed by the organization and requires access to SEVIS.
 - A locked I-17 does NOT impact your ability, or responsibility, to complete User Verification.
 - Additional resources include:
 - [PDSO/DSO Annual Verification](#)
 - [Annual Verification of School Officials](#)
 - [SEVIS Annual Verification of School and Sponsor Users FAQ](#)
 - [DSOs: Complete Your Mandatory SEVIS Annual Verification](#)
- **SEVIS Conversion from 2010 to 2020 NCES CIP Codes**
 - The CIP code conversion was released on October 16, 2020
 - SEVP will continuously update the CIP Conversion 2020 article as needed
- **BCM-2008-03: SEVP mailed notices to students without OPT employer/employment information in their SEVIS record**
 - SEVP conducted a review of SEVIS records for OPT participants and mailed notices directly to students who had not reported employer information and had exceeded 90 days of unemployment.

- The notice informed students of their lack of employer/employment information and provided an opportunity for them to update their records either through their DSO or directly through the SEVP Portal. BCM2008-03 contains an example of the notice.
- Any student's SEVIS record not updated will be set by SEVP to "terminated" to reflect the lack of employer information and the potential that the student may have violated their status either by failing to timely report OPT employment or by exceeding the permissible period of unemployment while on OPT. SEVP will send a second notice to students after their record has been terminated.
- Starting 9/30/2020, SAOC is beginning to mail Termination Notices to an estimated 1,200 students who failed to update their SEVIS records within the allotted time. Please see the copy of the Termination Notice for your internal reference only, in case you receive any inquiries from DSOs. If you do receive questions, please direct stakeholders to the SEVP Response Center for additional assistance.
- **Beware of ICE Imposters and Other Scams- Oct. 29, 2020**
 - The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) has issued a public safety alert warning stakeholders about people representing themselves as ICE personnel for fraudulent gain. Imposters posing as ICE officers or agents are attempting to elicit some form of payment in exchange for immigration benefits or other immigration services.
 - Remember, ICE officers will never:
 - Offer lawful immigration status or other immigration services in exchange for payment.
 - Use the internet or telephone to contact a member of the public to offer immigration services in exchange for payment through services like Western Union and MoneyGram or prepaid cash cards like GreenDot.
 - Use a third-party person to solicit and collect a fee from a member of the public in exchange for immigration services.
 - Ask a member of the public for payment of any kind.
 - Stakeholders should report any fraudulent schemes to the ICE Tip Line at 1-866-347-2423

Pre-submitted questions for SEVP

D/S Questions

- Do you have any updates with regards to the proposed rules about the elimination of D/S?
- Any updates on the proposed DS elimination rule?
- What's happening with D/S regulations?
- What is the current status of the new proposed rules from DHS, including the proposed rule to eliminate D/S (Duration of Status)?

Spring 2021 COVID Guidance Questions

- When can we expect to receive the spring guideline?
- If a continuing student wants to return to the U.S. for the spring and their classes are entirely online, what advice should we give them? (provided they have a valid travel signature and F-1 visa)
- Spring 2021 modality of Instructions- due to Covid
- 2021/Spring guidance?
- New guidance for spring 2021
- Will there be an updated SEVP guidance for Spring semester/Winter quarter?
- When will SEVP Spring 2021 guidelines be given to universities?
- When is guidance for spring coming out?

- Spring guidance?
- 2021 Spring Modality for new incoming international students
- Just would like updates on SEVP regulations during this new "3rd Wave" of COVID
- Will SEVP provide a guidance document/FAQs for Spring 2021? If so, when is it expected?
- When will we receive guidance about regulations for Spring 2021? Can students remain active if they're full online?
- Spring 2021 updates and guidelines regarding the pandemic especially for students from China where there is still a travel ban.
- Is SEVP going to issue an updated guidance for Winter quarter/Spring semester 2021?

Other Questions

- Have there been any changes to the change of status process for potential students who are currently in the country with another visa?
- What documents are needed for entry to the U.S. to prove on-campus course requirement? Registration statements? Schedules? Letters?
- Will F1 students studying outside the U.S. this academic year (due to remote learning and the pandemic), and who are maintaining a full course of study, be required to obtain a new form I-20 once they decide to return to the U.S.?
- Approval for FAA Certified Drone Programs - What additional processes do colleges have to go through for approval on their I-17 for Drone Programs? What is the timeline? What additional oversight and reporting requirements will the college have for these "flight" programs if approved?

Other Business: Participant Polls

Poll #1: Spring 2021 Procedural Adaptations Poll What are your institution's plans for Spring 2021?

- ? participants responded **Fully Online**
- ? participants responded **Hybrid (increased % online with some face-to-face)**
- ? participant responded **Normal Operations**
- ? participants responded **Undecided**

Poll #2: BA-PIER Officer Nominations Are you interested in becoming a BA-PIER officer?

- ? participants selected **Yes**
- ? participants selected **No**
- ? participants selected **Maybe, but I need more information**

Two-year term from 9/1/21 to 8/31/23; nominations will be made in February 2021

See officer duties here: <https://www.bapier.com/bylaws.htm>

Poll #3: Roundtable Discussion Format Should we have one large group discussion, or split up into breakout rooms?

- ? participants selected **One large group discussion**
- ? participants selected **Split up into breakout rooms**

Poll #4: Breakout Room Topics Which Breakout Room would you like to join, by area of interest?

- ? participants selected **Admissions (e.g. transfer credit, doc requirements, evaluation practices)**
- ? participants selected **Immigration (e.g. OPT/CPT, gray areas, SEVIS, Form I-17)**
- ? participants selected **Marketing/Recruitment (e.g. lead generation, travel)**
- ? participants selected **Programming (e.g. orientation, curriculum, short-term programs)**
- ? participants selected **Other/None of the above**

Pre-Submitted Roundtable Discussion Topics by Area of Interest

Admissions/Immigration:

- Latest I-20 issues for int'l students
- How is your institution handling acceptance of new students?
- Latest SEVIS restrictions for int'l students.
- SEVIS information on embassies/consulates for I-20 processing
- Any updates or changes that we are unaware of due to COVID for the spring semester?
- Is there a sunset on the exceptions due to COVID or is this something that will be perpetuated?
- Spring 2021 Guidance
- SEVP guidance for Spring 2021
- Spring 2021 online regulations
- 2021 Spring Modality for new incoming international students
- DSO discussions on grey areas
- Grey areas in advising
- The students from my country always get rejected from the embassy, even if they have completed the requirements and get everything done as per the F-1 visa requirements.
- ability of incoming students to get visas
- At some point when it seems like someone is clearly no longer here to be a student primarily, do you encourage them to meet with an attorney to change her status to something more permanent?
- OPT/CPT
- OPT Application Receipt Delays
- maybe a bit random but wanted to seek advice about OPT denials and what to do/how to advise?
- Seniors who returned to their home country in March 2020 and cannot return, but expect to graduate May 2020 - what is the status for OPT?

Marketing/Recruitment:

- Recruitment Abroad

Programming:

- What online activities have been successful in creating online social spaces for student interaction and engagement?
- Virtual programming
- Any successful programs that you've done virtually?
- I would love to hear what other campuses are doing for student engagement in terms of virtual activities.