National Association of State Administrators and Supervisors of Postsecondary Schools (NASASPS)
Annual Conference Briefing
April 29, 2014
Agenda

• About SEVP
• Certification and Recertification
• Compliance Updates
• Policy News
• Field Representatives Roll-out
• Partner Coordination and Outreach
• Government Resources
• Question and Answer
About SEVP

- Certify institutions
- Recertify every two years
- Monitor compliance
- Withdraw schools
- Develop policy for institutions and students
- Outreach to stakeholders

- Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS)
- SEVP Analysis and Operations Center (SAOC)
- SEVP Response Center (SRC)
- SEVP Field Representatives
Division of Responsibility with Department of State

- SEVP certifies schools
- SEVP maintains SEVIS
- SEVP manages participation of F and M nonimmigrant students
- State Department designates exchange visitor program sponsors
- State Department issues F, M and J visas
- State Department manages exchange visitors
# Forms Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form I-17</th>
<th>Form I-20</th>
<th>Form I-901</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Petition for Approval of School for Attendance by Nonimmigrant Student”</td>
<td>“Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status”</td>
<td>“I-901 SEVIS fee”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Submitted electronically to apply for and maintain a school’s certification in SEVIS
- Paper record of information in SEVIS
- Necessary for visa application
- Signed by designated school official (DSO)
- The fee is $200 for F and M students
- Paid once, before the student comes into the United States.
- Associated with the SEVIS ID on the Form I-20
Nonimmigrant Student Life Cycle

1. Apply to an SEVP-certified School
   Student applies and is accepted to an SEVP-certified school.

2. Receive Form I-20
   A SEVIS record is created for the student and the student is issued a Form I-20 by the designated school official (DSO) at the SEVP-certified school.

3. Apply for Student Visa
   Student brings Form I-20 and other required documents to apply for a student visa from the Department of State. In certain countries, there may be additional DHS visa security screenings.

4. Arrive in United States
   Student arrives no more than 30 days before program start date and presents to Customs and Border Protection the Form I-20 and valid student visa.

5. Maintain Status During Program Study
   Students must take a full class load, not work without authorization and speak with their DSO if they cannot finish classes before program end date.

6. Explore Post-graduate Opportunities
   Upon completion of program study, students have the options to change program levels (e.g., undergraduate to graduate) or apply to USCIS for post-completion OPT, OPT STEM, or to change to another visa status (e.g., H-1B; O; P).

7. Depart the United States
   Students have 60 days after completion of program or OPT to depart the United States.

Work Requirements
- Students cannot work without authorization
- On campus employment
- Off campus employment is need based and authorization is needed from USCIS
- Curricular practical training (CPT) as part of the program of study
- Optional practical training (OPT) related to major authorization by USCIS
Certification Process

Schools wishing to enroll nonimmigrant students must:

1. Apply and be granted SEVP certification to accept nonimmigrant students
   – File the U. S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Form I-17, “Petition for Approval of School for Attendance by Nonimmigrant Student”
   – Provide required evidence
   – Receive a school visit from SEVP
   – Complete a comprehensive adjudication process

2. Appoint a DSO

3. Submit to continuous monitoring through SEVIS for compliance with federal regulations
Certification vs. Accreditation

- **Certification**
  - Granted by SEVP
  - Required to enroll nonimmigrant students
  - Recertification every two years

- **Accreditation**
  - From a regional or national organization
  - Recognized by U.S. Department of Education (ED)

- Separate distinctions
- Accreditation by an ED-recognized organization can simplify the process for SEVP certification
Certification Updates

• Initials and updates
  – Committed to reducing wait times

• Recertification
  – 100% of all eligible schools have been notified
  – Rolling process

• Resources
  – Certification best practices
    • StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/schools/certification
  – Form I-17 Tutorial
    • StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/i-17-tutorial
SEVP Analysis & Operations Center

- Compliance best practices
- English as a Second Language (ESL) Accreditation Act update
  - December 14, 2013 deadline
  - Guidance for affected institutions
- Out of cycle reviews and site visits
- Optional practical training (OPT) update
  - Best practices and reminders
Policy Updates

• Draft Guidance for comment
  – Welcome stakeholder feedback
  – StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/draft-guidance

• Regulatory updates
  – DSO limitations
  – Dependent part-time study

• A look ahead
  – Upcoming draft guidance feedback opportunities
Field Representatives

• Hired first 15 of 60 field representatives
  – Serve as liaison between SEVP and schools
  – 60 field representatives will be distributed across three regions (east, west, central)
  – 8 week training at SEVP

• Deployment schedule
  – First class: April 2014
  – Upcoming classes: hiring announced on USAjobs.gov
Intergovernmental Coordination

- The White House
- Department of Homeland Security Headquarters
- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
- Congressional Members and Staff
- Office of Management and Budget
- Department of Education
- Department of State
- Federal Bureau of Investigations
- Social Security Administration
- Department of Motor Vehicles
Government Resources

• Study in the States
  – Webinars and Live Q&A sessions
  – SEVP guidance for comment
  – Social media platforms
    • Twitter: @StudyinStates
    • Facebook: Facebook.com/StudyintheStates
    • Blog: StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/blog

• SEVP publications
  – SEVP Spotlight Newsletter (Quarterly)
  – SEVP Conference Bulletin (Monthly)
SEVP Values Your Feedback

• Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey
  – StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/schools/conferences/survey
Question and Answer

• For case specific questions, contact the SEVP Response Center:
  – (703) 603–3400
  – SEVP@ice.dhs.gov
  – Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET, except holidays

• For technical issues, contact the SEVIS Help Desk:
  – (800) 892–4829
  – Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET, except holidays