

Change of Status, **FROM F-1 TO F-2**, while in the United States - Student Instructions

To apply for a change of status (COS) from F-1 to F-2 while IN the US,

- you must currently be in the US in legal status, and
- your passport must be valid for at least 6 more months.

Important information about being on an F-2 visa:

You CANNOT work AND You CANNOT attend school.**

- Your status is dependent on your spouse's (the F-1 visa holder's) status.
- You are permitted to stay in the United States only during the same time your spouse is permitted to stay (you cannot stay longer).
- Dependents are free to come and go in and out of the US without their spouses (while their spouses are in F-1 status).
**** You cannot attend any type of regular academic program such as full-time IEP or any degree program, but you are allowed to attend school part-time.**

Warning! If you leave the US while your COS is pending, your application is cancelled.

Follow the instructions below to apply for a change of status:

1. Complete and sign Form I-539 Application to Extend Status/Change Nonimmigrant Status, at

<https://www.uscis.gov/i-539>

- Make sure you are using the most recent version. Print and send all pages.
- If question is *not applicable* to you, or answer is 'none,' write "n/a" or "None."
- When signing or filling out any sections by hand, write clearly and use black ink.
- As of May 2019, you can file online (check for eligibility at <https://www.uscis.gov/i539online>)

2. Request a dependent I-20 through the Office of Admissions, Registration, and Client Services (ARC) in EU 200, in The Tseng College.

- Fill out the Request for Dependent I-20
- Attach a copy of dependent's passport
- Attach a copy of marriage license.
- If including children in application, attach a copy of each child's passport and copy of child's birth certificate.

F-1 primary signs each I-20 – even the one for a spouse.

3. Gather all required documents that must sent with the I-539 application (Copies are OK except where noted):

- Proof of financial capability, such as bank statement or financial guarantee
- Proof of family relationship, such as a marriage license or certificate
- Passports pages that show identity, visa, and latest entry stamps – both spouses
- Printed I-94s from: <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94/> – both spouses
- Copy of primary, F-1 student's I-20
- Applicant's new dependent I-20, signed by F-1.

4. Pay the \$370 fee.

- Pay by check or money order: Payee is "U.S. Department of Homeland Security" *(Write it exactly this way.)*
 - Attach check or money order to the Form I-539 application.
- Pay by credit card: Go to <https://www.uscis.gov/g-1450>

5. Send all of the above in one envelope to one of the addresses below.

Use a mailing service that gives you a receipt and a way to track your package.

If using an Express Mail Service, such as UPS, FedEx, or DHL, use this address:

USCIS
ATTN: I-539
2501 S. State Highway 121 Business Suite 400
Lewisville, TX 75067

(800) 375-5283

If using the United States Postal Service (USPS), use this address:

USCIS
PO Box 660166
Dallas, TX 75266

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