

## What can you do to maintain your status as an F-1 international student?

### **1. Arrive on time**

- You can arrive in the United States up to 30 days before the program start date listed on your Form I-20. Although there are some students who successfully enter the United States after their program start date, we do not recommend it. If you're going to be late, just let your school know in advance. They can push back your program start date and mail you an updated copy of your Form I-20.

### **2. Make sure your passport isn't going to expire in the next six months**

- Your passport should be valid for at least six months after the date you're scheduled to arrive in the United States. If your passport is going to expire within the next six months, make sure to renew it at the embassy or consulate in your home country.

### **3. Keep your school updated on where you're living**

- Your school should always know your most current U.S. address. If you move to a new address, you must tell your school within 10 days of the change. Once you do, the Designated School Official (DSO) for your school will update your information in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS).

### **4. Don't seek employment**

- The Department of Catholic Schools doesn't authorize international students to work. Be aware that working without permission is a serious violation of your F-1 status. If you are caught, you'll have to leave the United States immediately and you might not be able to re-enter.

### **5. Remember your travel endorsement**

- Before traveling outside of the United States, make sure you have a valid travel endorsement on the second page of your Form I-20. Each travel endorsement signature is valid for one year. You must have your Form I-20 signed by one of the DSOs at the Department of Catholic Schools. Your principal, teacher or guardian can't sign for you.

### **6. Bring the right documents when you travel**

- Every time you travel outside the United States make sure you have the following documents:
  - A. Passport
  - B. Unexpired F-1 visa
  - C. Form I-20 with valid travel endorsement signature
  - D. Evidence of Financial Support
  - E. I-901 fee payment
  - F. Most recent academic transcript

### **7. Check your program end date**

- 60 days after your program end date passes, your SEVIS record automatically completes and you must leave the country. If you need more time to complete your program or you notice that your program end date is incorrect, please tell your school immediately. Don't wait until after your program end date passes.