Procedures to Change from F-1 to F-2 Status

To request a change of status while in the U.S., an application must be sent to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Please read these procedures and complete the forms before visiting with an adviser in the International Students and Scholars Office.

1. Have your spouse complete the Dependent I-20: Student Request e-form by following the links below on the ISSO website: Home » F-1 Immigration Information » Dependent I-20 (F-2 Spouse or Child)


3. Make an appointment with an ISSO advisor to review documents for the final change of status application. Bring the following to this appointment:
   - completed Form I-539
   - applicant's new F-2 I-20 (pick up from receptionist in 3248 Memorial Union)
   - fee of $290 — make check or money order payable to Department of Homeland Security
   - financial documentation to cover tuition, fees and living expenses
   - applicant's original I-94
   - applicant's photocopy of the following documents:
     - all previously issued I-20s
     - visa page and passport (picture, number, expiration date)
     - proof of family relationship to the F-1 (e.g., photocopy of marriage certificate, if spouse; photocopy of birth certificate, if child)
   - Principal F-1’s photocopy of the following documents:
     - form I-94
     - current I-20
     - visa page and passport (picture, number, expiration date)

4. Student sends all documents listed in step 4 by certified mail, requesting a return receipt (keep these receipts), to:
   United States Citizenship and Immigration Services
   P.O. Box 660166
   Dallas, TX 75266

   Important: You must inform USCIS in writing of any address change while your application is pending.

Please Note:
- F-2 dependents cannot work.
- If you move while your application is pending, notify USCIS immediately of your new address. (The postal service will not forward mail from USCIS). Enclose a photocopy of your receipt notice (I-797) from USCIS with your change of address request.

If you have questions please contact an International Student Adviser.