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

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) regulations allow dependents in F-2 status to attend college or university classes part-time only and for recreational purposes only. (F-2 children may study full time at the elementary, middle, and high school level.) To be a full-time student or to enroll in courses toward a degree program, you must change your status from F-2 to F-1.

An F-2 dependent seeking a change of status to F-1 student must complete Form I-901 and pay a SEVIS fee before you request a change of status from USCIS. If the fee is not paid, your application will not be processed by immigration. The Form I-901 can be found at [www.FMJfee.com](http://www.FMJfee.com). The SEVIS fee of $200 is separate from the change of status application fee of $290.

To change from F-2 to F-1 status within the United States:

1. Obtain an I-20 after being admitted to a degree program.
   - The Office of Admissions, 100 Alumni Hall, approves I-20’s for new admissions to ISU, including the Intensive English and Orientation Program.
   - The International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO) approves I-20’s for any student already enrolled at Iowa State.

2. Collect financial documentation sufficient to cover:
   - living expenses and
   - expenses for full-time tuition and fees.


4. Meet with an adviser in the International Students and Scholars Office to review your final change of status application. Bring the following to this meeting:
   - your new ISU F-1 I-20
   - copy of your F-2 I-20
   - completed I-539 form
   - original copy of I-94
   - financial documentation to cover tuition, fees and living expenses
   - photocopies of visa page and passport (picture, number and expiration date)
   - a personal check or money order for $290 payable to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security
   - your SEVIS fee payment receipt

Principal F-1’s photocopy of the following documents:
   - form I-94
   - current I-20
   - visa page and passport (picture, number, expiration date)

5. Mail all documents listed in step 4 by certified mail (request a return receipt and keep the receipt) to:
   United States Citizenship and Immigration Services
   P. O. Box 660166
   Dallas, TX 75266

6. When USCIS approves your change of status, they will mail your I-20 to you. Bring your F-1 documents to ISSO within one week of receipt.