

## SEVIS Transfer Information for Students Currently in F-1 Status

Students who are currently in the United States studying or on a period of Optional Practical Training (OPT) are eligible for a SEVIS transfer of their F-1 status from their current school to SUNY Cortland. A SEVIS transfers would require you to request the transfer from your current international student advisor as of a certain release date, after which SUNY Cortland could issue you a *transfer* I-20.

A SEVIS transfer would allow you either to remain in the U.S. or travel and re-enter in between programs, as long as you register at SUNY Cortland within five months of your last day as a registered student at your current school, your graduation date, or your OPT end date. It would also permit you to travel on your unexpired F-1 visa, even though you will be attending a different school than the one noted on your visa stamp. (Once your visa has expired, however, you will still need to apply for a new F-1 visa stamp if you wish to travel and re-enter the U.S.) If you plan to remain in the U.S. in between programs, the Clark Center will give you your transfer I-20 upon arrival in Cortland. If, on the other hand, you plan to travel outside of the U.S. in between programs, we will mail you your transfer I-20 after your transfer release date. If you would prefer expedited delivery, you are welcome to pay for express mailing service.

If you do not go through the SEVIS transfer process, then you would be required to leave the U.S. within 60 days of graduating from your current school or completing OPT, apply for a new F-1 visa with a new *initial* I-20 from SUNY Cortland, and then re-enter the U.S. no more than 30 days before your SUNY Cortland start date.

**Sixty-day deadline for students who are graduating or who are on OPT:** If you are graduating from your current school or are on a period of OPT, and you plan to continue your education at SUNY Cortland, you must discuss your transfer with your international office **NO MORE THAN SIXTY (60) DAYS AFTER YOU GRADUATE** from your current school or OPT completion date. The release date must be entered in to the SEVIS database before the end of that 60 day grace period following your graduation or OPT end date. If you are transferring to SUNY Cortland to continue pursuing your current degree, we recommend that you speak with your international student advisor prior to the end of your final semester at that school.

**Students currently on OPT:** Please note that your OPT will no longer be valid as of the transfer release date.

### **WHAT YOU MUST DO BEFORE YOU COME TO CAMPUS!**

1. Notify your international student advisor at your current school of your intention to transfer to SUNY Cortland within 60 days of your graduation date or your OPT end date. If you will be transferring to SUNY Cortland to continue pursuing your current degree, you should speak with your international student advisor prior to the end of your final semester at your current school.
2. Schedule a “release date” with your current international student advisor for your F-1 record to be transferred to SUNY Cortland after you complete your final term at your current school. Your SUNY Cortland Form I-20 *cannot be issued* until after this release date has been reached.
3. Work with your current international student advisor to complete the attached F-1 Transfer In Form and fax or send it to this office as soon as possible.
4. Complete our I-20 Transfer Request Form and submit it with all required documentation to this office by mail or fax.

Once we have received your I-20 Transfer Request Form, we will create your transfer I-20. SUNY Cortland will be able to issue your transfer I-20 only *after* the transfer release date entered by your current school.