Glossary of Terms

F-1 status

A visa status for students eligible to enroll in academic programs in the United States at institutions of higher education awarding bachelor’s, master’s, doctorate or professional degrees.

I-20 “Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status

TAMUCC issues this document to potential international students in order for them to apply for an F-1 visa outside of the U.S. The I-20 indicates the institution and the length the student is permitted to study and degree. The I-20 must remain valid at all times.

Full-time Enrollment

F-1 students must be registered full-time during the academic year. Fulltime is defined as:

→ 12 credit hours for undergraduate students
→ 9 credit hours for graduate students

Online Classes

(F-1 students): Only one online class will count towards the minim fulltime credit amount.

Practical Training

A period of work authorization granted subsequent to an F-1 student’s completing a degree plan.

→ CPT: Curricular Practical Training is training for both undergraduate and graduate level during the program of study. CPT employment...
must be an integral part of an established curriculum. The position must be directly related to the student’s program. Student must be approved for CPT before accepting employment opportunity.

→ **OPT**: Optional Practical Training is training that occurs during or following the program of study. OPT is a form of temporary employment that is directly related to a student’s program of study.

**On-campus work**

F-1 students are permitted to work on campus at the university.

**Off-campus work**

F-1 students are not permitted to work off campus without authorization from US CIS or TAMU-CC OIE.

**Leave of Absences**

During a leave of absence, a student will not enroll in a term or will withdraw from all classes and will leave the U.S. Students must notify the OIE as soon as possible. Failure to notify OIE will result in termination of the F-1 status due to “Failure to Enroll”. This reason can lead to serious consequences if student plans to visit, study, or work in the U.S. in the future.

**Reduced Course Load**

F-1 students may be authorized for part-time enrollment if a student has one of the following reasons:

→ Initial difficulty with the English Language
→ Initial difficulty with reading requirements
→ Unfamiliarity with American teaching methods
→ Improper course level placement
→ Due to a documented medical reason
→ To complete course of study in current term
US CIS

United State Citizenship and Immigration Services

Visa

A document that allows a person traveling from other countries to enter the USA. There are different categories of visas for non-immigrants and immigrants, i.e. F-1, J-1, H-1B, O-1, B1/B2, WT/WB, TN, E-3, A, D, G-1-G5, NATO, H-1B1, O, L, R, M, E, C, U, I, V, K-3, K-1, IR2, CR2, IR5, F2A, F2B, E1, E2, E3, EW3, C5, T5, R5, I5, SQ, DV, SB, etc.

I-94

An arrival-departure record endorsed by the immigration officer at the POE with the status of the visitor and the length of time a person may remain in the United States.

J-1

A non-immigrant coming under the exchange visitor program of an academic institution, which is administered by the U.S. Department of State. There are several categories of J-1 exchange visitors, including students. Students who are completely funded by personal or family funds are not eligible for J-1 status.

DS-2019

A certificate of eligibility for exchange visitor status (J-1) issued by the academic institution, which is used by the exchange visitor to obtain a J-1 visa entering the United States and to maintain J-1 status.

M-1

A student pursuing a full course of study at an established vocational or other recognized nonacademic institution which is authorized by the DOH to admit M-1 students.
Overstay

Someone who entered the U.S. on a non-immigrant visa and stayed beyond the period of time authorized. If a non-immigrant is considered an overstay his/her visa will be void and he/she must obtain a new visa at a U.S. consulate located in his/her home country.

Unlawful Presence

A non-immigrant who remains in the U.S. after the period of authorized stay or is present in the U.S. without being admitted or paroled at the POE. The accumulation of 180 days of unlawful presence but less than 1 year will bar future entries into the U.S. for 3 years. The accumulation of more than a year of unlawful presence will bar future entries into the U.S. for 10 years.

F-3/M-3

Mexican or Canadian border students who reside outside the USA and commute across the border into the US to study part-time at an approved school located within 75 miles of a United States land border.

U.S. VISIT

A system developed by the Department of Homeland Security which uses biometrics (fingerprints & photographs) to confirm a visitor's entry into and exit from the United States.