



TRANSFER OUT REQUEST

F-1 Students Transferring from UI to Another U.S. School

Updated January 2009

Instructions

1. Complete this form.
2. Call 335-0335 to arrange an appointment with an OISS advisor.
3. Bring to the appointment evidence that you have officially been admitted to the new school (i.e. letter from the Office of Admissions).

Transfer Procedure

1. You apply to another school and are admitted to that school.
2. Before the new school can issue an I-20 for you, you must come to the OISS to set a “release date” upon which your SEVIS records will be electronically transferred to the new school.
3. After the transfer release date arrives, the new school will be able to issue a new I-20, which will state “transfer pending,” for you to attend there.
4. You must report to the new school within 15 days of the start date listed on their I-20.
5. Within 30 days of the start of classes, the new school will report in SEVIS that you are registered for classes, which will complete the transfer process for you and generate a NEW I-20 that states “transfer completed.”

Transfer Release Date

Your new school cannot make an I-20 for you until the University of Iowa “releases” your immigration records in SEVIS to the new school. To do this, we must specify a “release date,” whereupon the UI will no longer be able to access or change your records, and they will then fall under the jurisdiction of the new school.

According to the immigration regulations at 8 CFR 214.2(f)(8)(ii)(C), the release date must be “the current semester or session completion date, or the date of expected transfer if earlier than the established academic cycle.” For instance, students who graduate in May must use the last day of the spring semester as the release date, we cannot choose a later date. Students who decide to transfer while in between semesters of study may be more flexible in choosing the transfer release date. This will be decided in consultation with your OISS advisor.

Special Note for Students on OPT: If you are on OPT and wish to transfer to another school, you should be aware that once the transfer release date arrives, your OPT eligibility automatically comes to an end. This is because on the transfer release date, your SEVIS records are sent to the new school and are no longer under the jurisdiction of the University of Iowa. Because your OPT authorization is tied to you being a student at the University of Iowa, once your records are transferred, you are no longer a student here and your OPT eligibility ends.

If your OPT end date occurs before classes at the new school begins, this date will be your transfer release date, unless you request an earlier date. If your OPT would not yet be expired by the time classes at the new school begin

and you wish to continue your OPT employment until the latest possible date, you will need to discuss your transfer release date with the OISS advisor. You will be instructed to contact the Admissions office at your new school to discuss the latest date they would be able to issue your transfer I-20. Some schools are able to do this only days before you are required to report at the new school, others require the I-20 to be issued several weeks before the report date.

Employment Eligibility for Transfer Students

This can affect your eligibility to work either on the University of Iowa campus or on the campus of the new school, because regulations allow on-campus employment only at the school whose I-20 is covering you: “In the case of a transfer in SEVIS, the student may only engage in on-campus work at the school having jurisdiction over the student’s SEVIS record.” [8 CFR 214.2(f)(9)(i)] In other words, a student who chooses June 1 as a transfer release date cannot work on the UI campus after June 1. The student would, however, be able to begin employment on the campus of the new school as soon as the release date passes and they receive the new I-20.

Transfer Students Who Travel Outside the U.S.

If you plan to travel outside the U.S. before classes at the new school starts, you should use the “transfer pending” I-20 from the new school to re-enter the U.S. By entering with the new school’s I-20, it automatically completes the transfer process for you. Transfer students who follow this procedure do NOT need to get a new U.S. visa if your current one is still valid. In other words, though your valid U.S. visa may say the University of Iowa, you can still enter the U.S. using that valid visa along with the “transfer pending” I-20 from the new school.

Eligibility to Apply for CPT, OPT, etc. at New School

Transfer students will remain eligible for such benefits of F-1 status like being able to apply for CPT, OPT, etc. at the new school, provided they had maintained status (including registering full-time) for an entire academic year at the University of Iowa. For example, a student who began studying at the University of Iowa in August 2003, and who maintained full-time enrollment for that fall and spring semester, would be eligible to apply for Curricular Practical Training or Optional Practical Training at the new school if desired and if eligible in the Fall 2004. You do not have to be enrolled for an additional academic year at the new school in order to be eligible for these benefits.

Students Who Graduate From the University of Iowa

If you graduate or complete your program of study at the UI and then wish to transfer to a new school (as opposed to transferring to a new school before you complete your studies at the UI), you should be aware that the transfer must be requested either during your last semester at the UI, or within 60 days following the end date of your last semester.

Canceling the Transfer Release Date

The OISS can cancel or change your transfer plans any time up until the release date arrives. After the release date arrives, we have no further control over your SEVIS record, and you will then have to work with the new school if you wish to change your plans. For this reason, you need to remember the transfer release date that we choose during your appointment, which will be noted below, and request any changes BEFORE that date arrives.

A Word About “Initial Entry” I-20’s

We have mentioned that the new school will not be able to make the “transfer pending” I-20 for you until the SEVIS release date arrives. However, there is a way the school can make an I-20 for you before the SEVIS release date arrives. This is by issuing an “initial attendance” I-20, rather than a “transfer pending” I-20. We DO NOT recommend you allow the new school to do this. If the school gives you an “initial attendance” I-20, and you leave the U.S. and re-enter using the “initial attendance” I-20, you are considered a new student and will not be able to re-enter the U.S. until 30 days before the report date on your initial attendance I-20. You also will not be eligible for CPT, OPT or certain other F-1 benefits until you have been enrolled at the new school for a full academic year.



OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS & SCHOLARS

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THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
IOWA CITY, IA 52242-5500

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EMAIL: OISS@UIOWA.EDU

REQUEST TO TRANSFER FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Student Name: _____

UI Student ID: _____ Number: Email: _____

School to which you plan to transfer: _____

Have you officially been admitted to the new school?:

No Yes *If yes, please provide official evidence, such as an admission letter from Office of Admissions.*

When do you plan to begin classes at the new school (month/day/year)? _____

What is the last day of classes for you at the University of Iowa (month/day/year)? _____

Are you currently employed at the University of Iowa?

No Yes *If yes, when do you wish your employment on the University of Iowa campus to end? (month/day/year) _____*

Do you have any plans to travel outside the U.S. between now and the start of classes at your new school?

No Yes

Are you a student who has been Conditionally admitted (you are required to take certain Intensive English courses before beginning your regular degree program)?

No
 Yes *If yes, take this form to the Intensive English Program advisor in room 1112 University Capitol Centre to complete this transfer process*

To be completed by OISS advisor:

Release Date Agreed Upon During Appointment: _____

By signing below, I understand that the transfer release date noted above is the latest date I can legally work on the campus of the University of Iowa, and is also the latest date I can legally work under Optional Practical Training authorization.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

OISS/IEEP Advisor Signature: _____ Date: _____