# International Student Information Session Fall 2015

F-1 Status Rights and Responsibilities International Student Information Session Fall 2014



## Quiz?!!

Pre Test/ Post Test





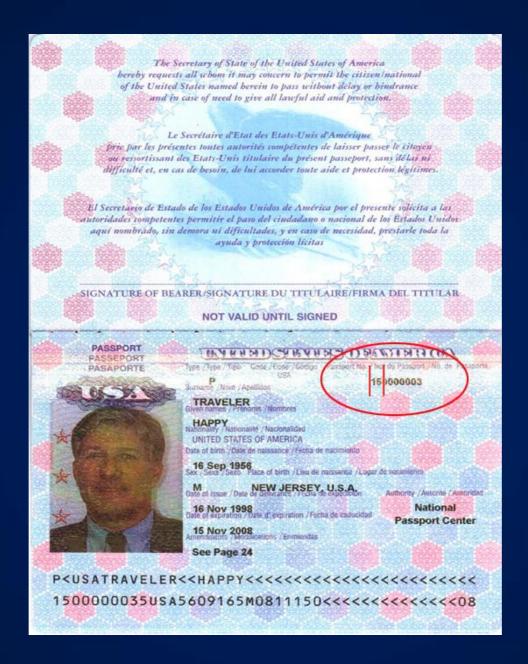
## Important Documents

- Passport
- I-20 (Certificate of Eligibility for Non Immigrant Student)
- Visa
- I-94 Arrival/ Departure Record





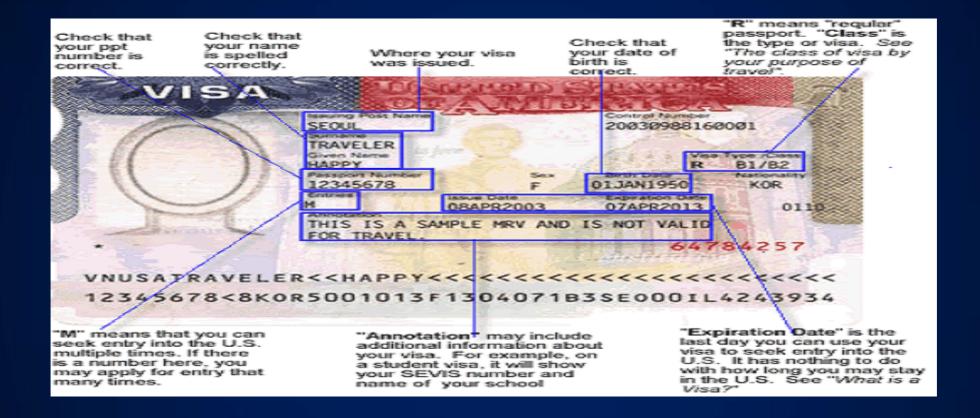
## Passport



## I-20 (Certificate of Eligibility)

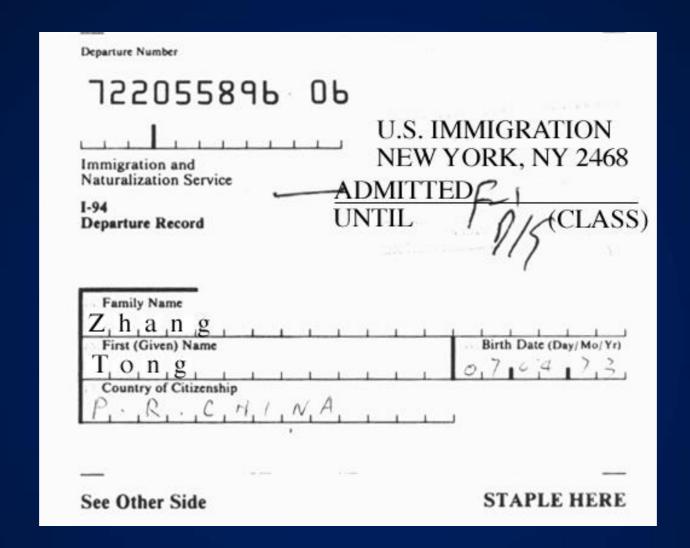
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## Visa





### 1-94

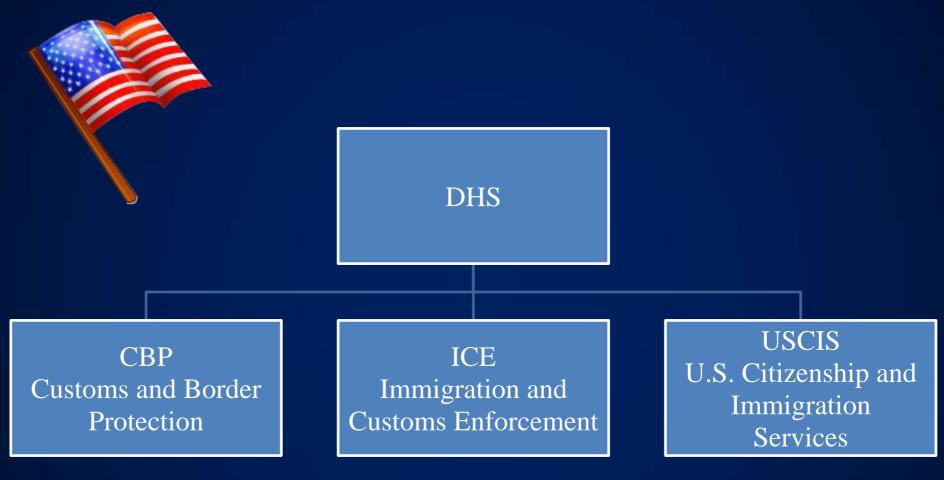


## U.S. State Department

- U.S. Embassies and Consulates worldwide
- Issues Visas in passports of a given length, and a certain number of entries to apply to enter the U.S.
- No U.S. Consulates within the U.S. Impossible to renew your visa in the U.S.



## Department of Homeland Security (DHS)





#### S.E.V.I.S

- "Student and Exchange Visitor Information System"
- U.S. Government tracking system for students and scholars
- You have already paid \$200 for this "service" I-901 Fee
- Monitored by SEVP (part of ICE)
- All I-20s are generated from SEVIS
- Schools have Designated School Officials (DSO) that are required to update specific information within certain deadlines



## Eligibility Stamp

- A Visa is eligibility stamp that students can take to apply to enter the U.S.
- Once admitted, students are given their "status"
- Status determines length of lawful stay in U.S. not visa
- F-1 Students are given until "D/S" to stay in the U.S. as indicated on the I-94 Form
- D/S means "Duration of Status"
- You are allowed to remain in the U.S. until you complete your program (s) (including OPT) plus an additional 60 day "grace period" to depart the U.S.



## Maintaining F-1 Status

- Have a valid passport at all times
- Have an unexpired I-20 Form
- Report a change of address to the New Student Advisor within 10 days of your move
- Do not work off campus without Authorization
- Be enrolled full-time



#### Full-Time Course Load

- Must be enrolled in 12 units or more in Fall and Spring semesters
- Summer term is optional (ONLY for students completing Fall and Spring classes at HGTC)
- Withdrawals (W) are NOT recognized
- "F"s are recognized
- May only take 1 class or up to 3 units of "on-line" or "Hybrid" courses as part of 12 units
- Exceptions to Full Time Requirement:
  - Documented Medical Condition
  - Last Semester of Studies
  - Initial Academic Adjustment Difficulty
- Must get DSO permission <u>before</u> you drop below 12 units not your professor.



#### What If I Violate the Rules?

- DSOs are required to update SEVIS based on your program status. If certain dates pass for example without required updates, SEVIS will automatically terminate your record
- SEVIS is monitored by Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP), part of ICE
- Subject you to deportation and future exclusion to the U.S.
- You may apply for Reinstatement to the USCIS to regain your status
- If you do not apply for Reinstatement, you will be expected to leave the country immediately. You can then apply for an "Initial Attendance" I-20 to return to the U.S.



## Employment

- On-Campus
- Optional Practical Training (OPT)
- Economic Hardship





## On-Campus Employment

- Students are allowed to work part-time
  - Up to 20 hours/ week) while school is in session.
  - Full time is allowed during Summer or during school breaks
- No USCIS approval needed
- Best places to look are the bookstore, cafeteria, tutorial center, and possibly the library



## Employment

- Optional Practical Training (OPT)
  - Must have valid F-1 status for 1 academic year (2 semesters)
  - Must apply to USCIS for a Employment Authorization Document (EAD)
  - Job must be directly related to the field you are studying as indicated on your I-20
  - Available for 1 year at each educational level
  - May be taken pre or post completion of studies



## Employment

#### Severe Economic Hardship

- Must prove to USCIS that employment is necessary due to severe economic hardship caused by circumstances beyond his or her control and must document the circumstances causing the economic need
- Must have valid F-1 status for 1 academic year
- Must apply to USCIS for a Employment Authorization Document (EAD)
- Can be in any job. Does not have to be related to course of study



## Travel and Re-Entry

- If you wish to travel outside the U.S. during your studies, and reenter after a temporary absence of 5 months or less, you will need the following:
  - A valid passport (and valid for 6 months)
  - A valid U.S. visa with more than 1 entry remaining. Exceptions are trips to Mexico and Canada of less than 30 days
  - Your I-20 with a current signature. We recommend you get a travel endorsement each time you travel.
  - Additional Recommended Documentation
    - Recent Financial Statement
    - Transcripts or Tuition Receipts
    - Name and Contact information of DSO





## Completing Your Program/ Transferring

- 60 Day Grace Period after the last day of the semester
- Completing Come to New Student Advisor Office to discuss future plans
- Transfer Students need to bring an acceptance letter from next school to NSA office
- Must start next term, within 5 months
- SEVIS Record must be released within grace period to maintain status



## International Student Agreement

- If I am admitted as a student at Horry Georgetown Technical College:
  - I must view the NSO and INTERNATIONAL Student Orientation
  - I must enroll in, attend and complete (no "W" withdrawals) at least 12 units (full-time) of classes at Horry Georgetown Technical College each Fall and Spring semester (Summer optional) ONLY if you have completed 2consecutive semesters AT HGTC
  - I must not enroll in more than 3 credits of distance education(Hybrid) or (online) course per semester
  - I must have a current MAP (My Academic Plan) on file and meet with the International Student Advisor once a semester
  - I will maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.00 "C"



## International Student Agreement

- I have taken an assessment test to demonstrate my proficiency in the use of the English language and will enroll in the classes suggested by the College.
- My beginning math classes will be determined by a placement examination
- I must pay all tuition and fees each semester within 10 working days before tuition due date.
- I must limit on campus employment to no more than 20 hours per week while school is in session in accordance with U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regulations
- I may not work off-campus without authorization from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- I must notify HGTC' New Student Advisor/DSO of any changes in address within 10 days in accordance with U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regulations. The Office will then update my SEVIS record



## International Student Agreement

I understand that failure to comply with any of the Horry Georgetown Technical College regulations may result in a hold placed on my student records or dismissal from the College. I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to understand and follow the DHS F-1 student regulations. I also understand that if I fail to meet the DHS regulations as they pertain to maintaining my F-1 status, Horry Georgetown Technical College is obligated to notify the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) branch of DHS via updating my SEVIS record. I understand that this could result in deportation from and future exclusion to the United States.





Name of Student: Signature of Student:

Date: \_\_\_\_

H#: