

Helpful FAQ's

1. I am currently in the US but I do not want to register for in-person/Hybrid classes for Fall 2020. What are my options?

Ans: If a student cannot attend in-person/Hybrid classes at NMSU and therefore cannot maintain their F-1 status, then their I-20 will have to be “terminated for Authorized Early Withdrawal “ and the student has to exit the US.

Students can take online only classes while *outside* of the US. These students will not have an immigration status as they will be outside of the US.

2. I am a continuing student but due to COVID, I am currently in my home country, I am unable to come back to US due to travel restrictions/unavailability of commercial flights etc. Can I register for all online classes?

Ans: Yes, you can register for all online classes from your home country. If a student is unable to attend in-person at NMSU then their I-20 will have to be “terminated for Authorized Early Withdrawal “ and when they plan to return to NMSU they will have to contact the ISSS office for an I-20.

3. Can I take all online classes and still maintain my F-1 status?

Ans: You cannot maintain your F-1 status by registering for all online classes only.

International students can register and take all online classes, but students must exit and take these classes from outside the United States.

4. I attend my class via Synchronous Zoom, is it considered classroom based?

Ans: Synchronous Zoom is still an online class because there is no classroom component. Hence, it is considered online class.

5. If I plan to stay in the US to take classes I have heard that I will need to get a new I-20 ? Am I right?

Ans: You are right, ISSS now has to issue a new I-20's to all international students certifying that the school is not operating entirely online, that the student is not taking an entirely online course load for the fall 2020 semester, and that the student is taking the minimum number of online classes required to make normal progress in their degree program.

ISSS must indicate this information in the Form I-20 Remarks field in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) by Aug 4th 2020.

6. As a student what can I do to be in a valid immigration status and stay in the US?

Ans: You must register and take the appropriate amount and type of credits from within the US:

-If you are a graduate student you have to register for 9 credits and of these credits only 3 credits can count towards an online course to maintain your status.

-If you are an undergraduate student you have to register for 12 credits and of these only 3 credits can count towards an online course to maintain your status.

For students interested in taking classes from within the US, please register for classes ASAP, so the ISSS office can issue you a new I-20 document.