



**POV:  
INTERNATIONAL  
STUDENT AT  
UOFSC**



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Director of ISS



# 6 Things to Know

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1. Federal Regulations

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2. International Student Categories

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3. Enrollment Requirements

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4. Exceptions to Enrollment Requirements

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5. COVID related issues

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6. More about International Student Services

# 1. Federal Regulations

## Code of Federal Regulations

- Immigration & Nationality Act: originated in the 1950s.

## Student & Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)

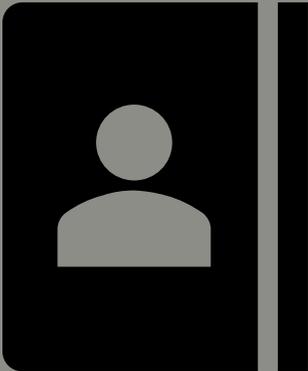
- Manages schools, nonimmigrant students in the F and M visa classifications and their dependents.

## The Department of State (DOS)

- Manages the visa interview and acquisition process
- Manages Exchange Visitor Programs, nonimmigrant exchange visitors in the [J visa](#) classification and their dependents

## Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

- *Secures U.S. borders at and between ports of entry*
- *Determines if a student is eligible for entry*





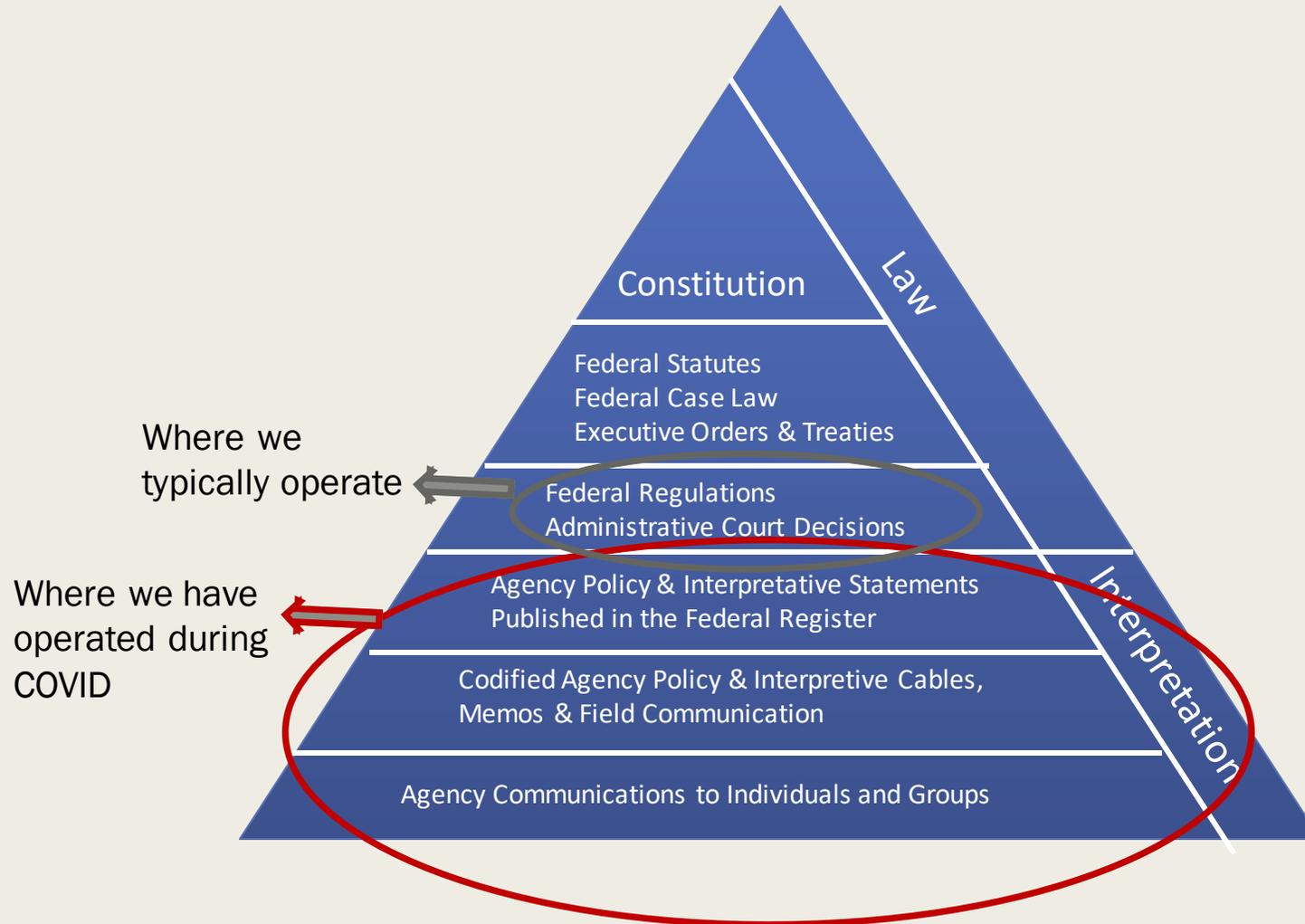
Entry to the U.S.

I-20 issuance,  
enrollment guidance



Visa issuance

# Sources of Authority



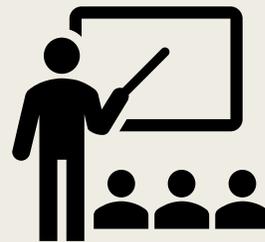


## 2. International Student Categories

1. Degree seeking
2. International Accelerator Program (IAP)
3. English Programs for Internationals (EPI)
4. Exchange
5. Also important to note: other visa types

# 3. International Student Enrollment Requirements

1. 12 credit hours during the fall and spring for undergraduate students
2. Only one online course counts towards full-time enrollment requirements.
3. If students wish to remain abroad and complete their degree program online, it is up to their academic department and/or academic advisor to determine if this is an option. Students remaining outside the U.S. will not have an active immigration record.
4. F-1 and J-1 nonimmigrant students will not be eligible for Carolina Online.



**Note:**

Students can take more than one online course per semester, but only three credit hours count towards the 12 credit hour minimum.

# 4. Exceptions to full-time enrollment

Student is in final semester and doesn't need to enroll full-time in order to complete your coursework (1 semester maximum; in-person course required)

Student has a documented medical issue (12 month maximum)

Initial difficulty with the English language (first semester only; 1 semester maximum)

Initial difficulty with reading requirements or teaching methods (first semester only; 1 semester maximum)

Unfamiliarity with American teaching methods (first semester only; 1 semester maximum)

Improper course level (1 semester maximum)

# 5. COVID related issues



- Based on an executive order issued by President Trump and continued by President Biden, individuals cannot enter the U.S. if they have been in China, India, Brazil, South Africa, Iran, Schengen area of Europe, UK, or Ireland within the past 14 days. **However, F-1 students have a national interest exception so they can enter after August 13th.**
- U.S. consulates are still operating in a limited capacity. Arrival delays and deferrals are expected.
- Students are required to have a negative COVID test within 3 days of travel to the U.S. This applies to vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.
- Vaccinated students should upload their immunization record to MyHealthSpace.
- Unvaccinated students will need to test again within 3 - 5 days of arrival. Self-quarantine is currently advised but is under discussion and details are forthcoming.

# 6. International Student Services

## Our Mission

- International Student Services supports nonimmigrant international students and institutional stakeholders on matters of immigration compliance and cross-cultural adjustment to promote academic success. ISS contributes to global engagement of the greater University of South Carolina community through dynamic internationalization programming.

## Our Vision

- To inspire University of South Carolina students to forge international connections, to engage in transformative educational experiences through a lens of global curiosity, and ultimately, to engender positive change in the world through their increased intercultural competence.

## Our Goals

- Respond nimbly to a dynamic regulatory environment to ensure institutional immigration compliance at the federal and state levels.
- Advocate for international student retention and success by providing outstanding support services centered around competence and empathy.
- Proliferate a culture of “the informed student,” empowering international students with knowledge and skills to properly maintain immigration compliance.
- Expand cross-cultural learning and global competencies among students, faculty, staff, and the community.



**THANK  
YOU!**