

Subject: Support to International Students on Dept. of Homeland Security Rule

Dear UNM Faculty and Staff,

We would like to provide you with information on how to support your students immediately as we respond to the new Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) restrictions on the enrollment of international (F-1 and M-1 non-immigrant) students. We are following response to the SEVP closely with the support of the Global Education Office (GEO).

UNM is currently planning a hybrid Fall 2020 semester. With most of the scheduling submitted for UNM's Albuquerque main campus, about 1/12 of courses are 100% Face-to-Face, about 1/4 of courses are Face-to-Face plus remote, and about 2/3 of courses are fully remote. State of New Mexico regulations on COVID-19 may require a change in our Fall course delivery plans at any time.

Since we are currently planning a hybrid Fall 2020 semester, we fall under part 3 of the DHS rule at present: <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/bcm2007-01.pdf>

For international non-immigrant students living in the United States in Fall 2020, UNM must show 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."

***This means that international students must take at least one class that has a face-to-face component this Fall. The Global Education Office will provide the necessary certification that a student meets the DHS SEVP rule. Since UNM has many courses scheduled for Fall 2020 with a face-to-face component, some international students already meet the rule. Others will need to change their enrollment plans with the support of their academic and faculty advisors.***

Here is guidance below on how to support your international undergraduate or graduate and professional students.

For UNM undergraduate non-immigrant international students who plan to live in the United States in Fall 2020:

1. Guide them to reading the e-mail communication on this sent by the Global Education Office on the DHS rule. Also, guide them to the video explaining how to read the Fall 2020 schedule: <https://vimeo.com/435746729>
2. Help them identify the Fall classes for which they are currently enrolled. Determine whether any of these classes is 100% Face-to-Face, Face-to-Face plus remote scheduled, or Face-to-Face plus remote arranged.

3. If the undergraduate international student is enrolled for at least one class that is 100% Face-to-Face, Face-to-Face plus remote scheduled, or Face-to-Face plus remote arranged, then the student has met the ICE criteria. The Global Education Office will be able to provide the student with certification of this.

4. If the undergraduate international student is not currently enrolled in a class with a Face-to-Face component, ask the student to work with an academic advisor to find and enroll in a course section that is 100% Face-to-Face, Face-to-Face plus remote scheduled, or Face-to-Face plus remote arranged. It is probable that an undergraduate international student will have college requirements or general education requirements to complete. Rather than moving immediately to changing your degree program's schedule, support the international student in working with their academic advisor to identify a course with a face-to-face component that satisfies a college or general education requirement. Problems courses and independent study courses are classified as face-to-face courses and are noted in the schedule as "arranged" (one word only); however, dependence on such courses for compliance should be avoided.

For UNM graduate and professional non-immigrant international students who plan to live in the United States in Fall 2020:

1. Guide your graduate students to reading the e-mail from the Global Education Office on the DHS rule. Also, guide them to the video explaining how to read the Fall 2020 schedule:

<https://vimeo.com/435746729>

2. Within your graduate and professional degree program, identify which students in your graduate and professional program are international students and analyze their planned fall courses. Rely on your departmental scheduling information as well as this video explaining how to read the Fall 2020 course schedule: <https://vimeo.com/435746729>. Rather than moving immediately to changing your degree program's schedule, complete your analysis to determine what is needed.

3. If all of your international graduate or professional students are enrolled in at least one course with a face-to-face component, then the Global Education Office can certify that they have met the ICE rule. Remember that thesis hours, dissertation hours, and problems hours (listed as "arranged" —one word only) are considered face-to-face.

4. If an international graduate or professional student is not enrolled in at least one course with a face-to-face component (including 100% face-to-face and face-to-face plus remote), consider guiding them to enrollment in: 1) a course in your degree program with a face-to-face component; 2) a problems course if appropriate to the student's course of study; 3) thesis hours or dissertation hours; 4) a course in a related degree program with a face-to-face component. This change in enrollment will make it possible for GEO to certify that the student has met the ICE rule.

5. If a significant number of international graduate or professional students in your degree program cannot meet the DHS rule, consider changing the instructional modality for one or more classes to include a face-to-face component. Alternatively, work with the department Chair and

faculty to create a class with a face-to-face component in which international and other students can enroll, for example, a teaching practicum.

We will continue to follow Department of Homeland Security information around the rule as well as national response to it and to share what we learn. *It is important to remember that a change in State of New Mexico health regulations may at any time require a change to our course delivery plans. We will take into account the implications of any changes for international students residing in the United States as well as the implications for veterans.*

Rapidly changing immigration rules create anxiety and increase the stress level for our international students during an already challenging time. Reassure our international students that they are welcome at UNM, they are valued Lobos, and we are committed to their academic success. Faculty and staff support and flexibility can go a long way in alleviating the concerns of our international student community.

Sincerely,

Pamela and Bill

Pamela Cheek, Associate Provost for Student Success  
Bill Stanley, Associate Provost for Faculty Development