

The Change of Status F-2 to F-1 Process

Change of Status Requirements

To initiate your Change of Status to F-1 **you must be an Accepted and/or Matriculated student at Hunter College.** Ensure that you have paid the commitment deposit fee to avoid processing delays. As an F-1 student, **you will be required to pay out-of-state tuition.** This will remain the case for as long as you hold F-1 status. If you plan to change your status from F2 to F-1 once you apply, you **cannot** leave the U.S.; if you do, you must instead schedule an appointment at the U.S. embassy in your home country to apply for the F-1 visa. As long as the F-1 is in active status their F-2 status is considered active. While you are waiting for the F-1 status to be approved **you can only attend school on a part time basis (Maximum 6 credits).**

Processing Time and Application Steps

To apply for admission to Hunter College, submit your application online through the [CUNY Admissions website](#) if you intend to pursue a bachelor's or master's degree. If you have not yet applied to Hunter College, you must first complete the admissions process. Undergraduate applicants should submit their application [here](#). Graduate applicants should apply [here](#).

How to Proceed After Admission

After acceptance, you must contact the school's International Students Office (ISO) and submit all required documents listed in the **Change of Status Required Documents Checklist** so that the International Student Advisor can process your I-20 for the change of status. While your change of status from **F-2 to F-1** is pending, you may only study **part time**. Once your F-1 status is approved, you are required to study **full time** during the spring and fall semesters. Once you receive the I-20, you can pay your SEVIS fee and then proceed with the change of status instructions.

Please review the following documents/forms, complete the required steps, and upload the required documents:

1. Review the [Change of Status Required Documents Checklist](#)
2. **Complete the Certificate of Eligibility** (SEVIS I-20)
 - For admitted [undergraduate students](#) (Bachelor's degree)
 - For admitted [graduate students](#) (Master's degree)
3. **Upload all required documents** to the [I-20 Document Upload for Change of Status Form](#)
4. Create [USCIS account](#) (Submit I-539 & Pay)
5. Notify ISO of F-1 Approval and/or Denial notice

Acceptable Examples of Financial Documents

- Recent bank statements (checking or savings accounts)
- Scholarship or fellowship award letters
- Sponsor's bank statements along with an affidavit of support
- Official loan approval letters
- Employer's letter from your sponsor confirming projected support for the remaining years of study (if applicable)

**All documents must be recent and in English by a certified translator.*

For more information on the difference between F-1 status and an F-1 visa, visit: [Student Visa vs. Student Status: What's the Difference?](#)

Next Steps After Submitting Required Documents

Once all required documents are submitted, the Hunter DSO will issue you an initial I-20 for your change of status. Once you receive your I-797 Approval Notice confirming your change of status to F-1, **you must submit a copy of this notice within seven (7) business days**. Failure to submit the approval notice within the required timeframe **will result in your F-1 status being automatically reverted from “approved” to “terminated”** in SEVIS. **If you need to leave the U.S., please contact the DSO to inform them of your plans**. The DSO can provide an initial attendance I-20 so you can schedule an appointment at the U.S. embassy in your country to apply for an F-1 visa to return for your studies. If you have obtained another status and no longer wish to pursue the change to F-1, **you must notify the DSO so they can cancel your F-1 I-20 request**. Otherwise, your F-1 approval could automatically override your current immigration status.