

Maintaining Your Status

The responsibility for maintaining your immigration status lies with you. There are several requirements you must follow to maintain status:

Requirement to keep your passport valid

Your passport must be valid at all times. Renewal applications must be made with the Embassy or Consulate of the country issuing the passport. You will need a certification of student status from the Union Institute and University. Addresses of embassies and consulates are available from the US Department of State website at: <http://www.state.gov/>.

Requirement to Report Address Changes to Meridian University

You are required to report any address change to our office within 10 days of the address change. This includes address changes of any of your dependents as well.

Requirement to Obtain Prior Authorization from Meridian University to Drop Below a Full Course of Study

If you are a student you are required to pursue a full course of study during residency semesters. You are required to fully participate in all scheduled activities during the residency week. You are allowed to deviate from this full course of study **only with PRIOR authorization from our office**, and only under limited circumstances. You will need to complete a Reduced Courseload Certification Form to make this request.

Requirement to Report Departure Date and Reason to Meridian University

You must report to MU the date you plan to leave the U.S. after each residency. You can do this by completing the SEVIS Update Form.

Requirement to Abide by Employment Regulations

Given the unique nature of our program, you will not be eligible for on-campus employment or any of the other work options typically associated with students that hold F-1 status.

Requirement to Attend Another School

You are currently authorized to attend Meridian University. If you decide to attend another school in the U.S. you must notify MU of your intent to transfer and what school you plan on transferring to. MU will then enter a "Release" date in SEVIS (usually the day the current quarter ends). After this date is reached the new school can issue you an I-20. You will then have to report to the Designated School Official/Responsible Officer at the new school within 15 days of the program start date.

Requirement for Changing Your Academic Program or Degree Level

Students must obtain a new Form I-20 **before** changing your academic program from one degree level to another (e.g., from Bachelor's to Master's level) or one major/field of study to another (e.g., from Psychology to Business). You must receive a new I-20 for your new program prior to coming to the U.S. to engage in your next required residency.

Requirement to Provide documentation of Dependents

You must notify the Meridian University of any accompanying dependents in F-2 status and provide biographical information (e.g., full name, address, country of birth, etc.) and immigration information (e.g., passport information, visa information, etc.) regarding those dependents using MU's "Request for Spouse and Children Form".

IMPORTANT NOTE: This information is not exhaustive and is subject to change without notice. International students should contact the Designated School Official at MU with questions on any of the information presented above.