Student and Exchange Visitor Program Office

SEVIS Technical Conference Call with the Educational Community

Questions and Answers from Wednesday, April 26, 2006

1.   Secondary Majors in SEVIS (F) Batch

SEVIS batch is rejecting transactions for "Program Information" updates when a student drops the Secondary Major. Leaving a null value in place (dropping the second address line, for example) is not a problem. Is this a known issue, and if so, is there a fix planned for this?

Response: This was a known issue that was corrected with SEVIS Release 5.0 (which was implemented in June 2005). We tried to replicate the issue but have been unable to do so. If users continue to see it, please contact the SEVIS Help Desk at 1.800.892.4829.

2.   Can the transfer out correction be used for new Initial status students?

Should the new Transfer Out correction function be used by PDSOs to transfer a new Initial status student who recently entered the United States on the basis of School A's I-20, but shortly after entry decides he wants to transfer to School B before beginning classes at School A? (Is that function available for all Initial status records?) Prior transfer guidance from the August 6 2003 SEVIS liaison call differs from the new FAQ guidance.

Response: No, this correction option does not apply to new Initial status students. The guidance provided in the FAQs was a known inconsistency discovered by SEVP during an internal review. SEVP has already clarified this guidance in Section 8.1 and is currently working to also clarify sections 3.4 and 5.7. These updates will be posted on the main SEVIS website within the next week. Until these FAQs are updated, please continue to reference the SEVIS User Manual for guidance or contact the SEVIS Help Desk at 1.800.892.4829.

For example, FAQ section 8.1 will now read as:

Newly arrived students can transfer if they first report to your school and have been accepted by another DHS-certified school. The student must be able to attend classes at the transfer-in school the next available semester or within 5 months, whichever is sooner. There is no regulatory requirement that the student attend a full term before applying for a transfer. You will need to register the student in SEVIS. For the current session end date, use today's date. For the next session start date, use today's date. Select the Transfer Out function and use today's date as the Transfer Release Date. All other transfer rules apply. If the student had a previous transfer and no record of attendance at either of the two previous schools, consult with SEVP before initiating the transfer.