

SEVIS Release 6.0 Anticipated System Changes

January 22, 2009

Estimated Production Release Date: February 20, 2009

The following summarizes the anticipated system changes to SEVIS with Release 6.0.

SEVIS Batch – F/M School Users

Note: Additional information can be found at <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/schools/batch.htm>.

17-Month OPT Extension

Schools will be able to submit 17-month Optional Practical Training (OPT) extensions via Batch for eligible F-1 students. As in SEVIS Real-Time Interactive (RTI), schools will not have the option to enter employment dates for OPT extensions. The OPT extension start date will be the day after the end date of the current Approved OPT segment on which the OPT extension is being requested; the OPT extension end date will be 17 months from the OPT extension start date.

To accommodate this enhancement, the **Student.OPTEmployment.Extend** event will be added to the Create-Update Student schema.

OPT Edit

Schools will be able to edit all OPT fields via Batch prior to adjudication (i.e., Requested or Pending status). For Approved status OPT, schools will only be able to update the employer name, employer address, course relevance, completion type, student remarks, and remarks up until the OPT end date. If the OPT is in Canceled, Denied, or Withdrawn status, or is in Approved status with an OPT end date in the past, editing will not be permitted.

A new event, **Student.OPTEmployment.Edit**, will be added to the Create-Update Student schema.

OPT Student Remarks

Student remarks will be added to the Create-Update Student schema for **OPTEmployment.Add**, **OPTEmployment.Edit**, and **OPTEmployment.Extend** events. The student remarks will display on the Student Information page of SEVIS RTI and print on Page 1, Field 9 of the student Form I-20.

Employment Comment/Remarks

In order to match SEVIS RTI, the existing Create-Update Student schema employment comments/remarks elements listed in the table below will be modified to have a maximum length of 250 characters.

Prefix	Element	Comments
CPTEmployment.Add	CourseRelevance	Will also be changed to optional
CPTEmployment.Add	Remarks	No comment
OffCampusEmployment.Add	Recommendation	Will also be changed to optional
OffCampusEmployment.Edit	Recommendation	Will also be changed to optional
OPTEmployment.Add	CourseRelevance	Will also be changed to optional
OPTEmployment.Add	Remarks	No comment

OPT 6 Month Reporting

Schools will be required to report that an F-1 student with an Approved status OPT extension is participating in the employment segment. The reporting due dates will be 6 months and 12 months after the employment start date. The schools will have two reporting periods which will be 15 days before plus 31 days after each reporting due date.

If the school does not report that the student is participating in the OPT extension, or does not update the OPT extension information within the reporting period, the student will automatically be set to Terminated status with a new reason of "Failure to Report while on OPT" 32 days after the reporting due date.

To allow schools to perform this report via Batch, the **Student.OPTEmployment.ReportParticipation** event will be added to the Create-Update Student schema.

Pre-Completion/Post-Completion OPT Indicator

When adding or editing an F-1 student OPT segment via Batch, schools will have the option to identify the OPT as either pre-completion or post-completion. If pre-completion is selected, the OPT end date must be on or before the program end date; for post-completion OPT, the OPT start date must be on or after the program end date.

The pre-completion/post-completion OPT indicator will be added to the Create-Update Student schema for **OPTEmployment.Add** and **OPTEmployment.Edit** events.

Filed/Waitlisted Cap-Gap Extension Indicator

For F-1 students, who are on or after their Program End Date, schools will have the ability to indicate either of the following via Batch:

- If the student has provided proof that an employer had filed a petition on the student's behalf to change status to H-1B, the school may mark the Cap-Gap extension as Filed. When the Cap-Gap extension is marked as Filed, if the student has a current, approved, post-completion OPT, the OPT end date will be updated to a new date (to be provided by Department of Homeland Security [DHS] each year).
- If the student has received confirmation that the petition for the Cap-Gap extension has been waitlisted, the school may mark the Cap-Gap extension as Waitlisted. When the Cap-Gap extension is marked as Waitlisted, if the student has a current, approved, post-completion OPT, the OPT end date will be updated to a new date (to be provided by DHS each year).

A new Batch event, **Student.Request.CapGapExtension**, will be added to the Create-Update Student schema to handle this enhancement.

M-1 OPT Start Date

School users will be able to enter an OPT start date for an M-1 student that is on or after the student's program end date.

This change affects the following events:

Student.OPTEmployment.Add
Student.OPTEmployment.Edit

CPT and OPT Employment Start Date Validation

Additional validation will be added to validate the CPT and OPT employment start dates for F-1 students. The employment start date cannot be prior to the students program start date; it must be on or after the program start date.

This change affects the following events:

Student.CPTEmployment.Add
Student.OPTEmployment.Add
Student.OPTEmployment.Edit

Secondary Major and Minor Fields

The fields "Secondary Major" and "Minor" will be required when creating or updating an F-1 student. If the student does not have a Secondary Major or Minor, the PDSO/DSO may select code 00.0000 with the description "None".

This change is for F-1 students only (M-1 students should not have a Secondary Major or Minor), and affects the following events:

Student.Create
Update.EducationLevel.Change
Update.Program.Edit

In order to accommodate this new requirement, a new table will be added to SEVIS Student and Dependent Lookup Tables entitled *Secondary Major and Codes for Students*. In addition, the existing table entitled *Major/Minor Codes for Students* will be renamed *Primary Major Codes for Students*.

Country Code Table Update

The Birth Country Codes, Citizenship/Residence Country Codes, and Passport Issuing Country Codes lookup tables will be modified per a National Geo-Spatial Intelligence Agency's Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) 10-4 Change Notice.

Two new countries will be added:

Country Code	Country Description
KV	Kosovo
RI	Serbia

One country code will be removed:

Country Code	Country Description
RB	Serbia

The SEVISTable.xsd file will be updated to reflect these changes.

SEVIS Real Time Interactive – F/M School Users

OPT Employment Remarks Fields

The following changes regarding remarks on the OPT Employment screens will be implemented:

- The *Explain how the employment is related to course work* field is no longer required. In addition, it will no longer print on page 3 of the I-20.
- The Remarks field will be updated to *Employment Remarks*, and will now print on page 3 of the I-20. It is an optional field.

OPT Extension Remarks Fields

The *Employment Remarks* field will now be pre-populated with the data from the *OPT Employment Remarks* field. It will continue to print on page 3 of the I-20. In addition, it is now an optional field.

CPT Employment Remarks Fields

The following changes regarding remarks on the CPT Employment screens will be implemented:

- The *Explain how the employment is curricular* field is no longer required. In addition, it will no longer print on page 3 of the I-20.
- The Remarks field will be updated to *Employment Remarks*, and will now print on page 3 of the I-20. It is an optional field.

OCE Employment Remarks Fields

The *Recommendation* field is no longer required. In addition, it will now print on page 3 of the I-20.

Student Remarks to Employment Requests/Edits

The PDSO and DSO will have the option to enter student remarks during OPT (including extensions), OCE, and CPT requests and edits. This field will be pre-populated with text that is currently in the field. The student remarks will display on the Student Information page and print on Page 1, Field 9 of the Form I-20.

Current Requests/Authorizations Details Screen Remarks Fields

The following changes regarding remarks on the Current Requests/Authorization Details screen will be implemented:

- The *Remarks* field in the OPT Employment and CPT Employment sections has been renamed *Employment Remarks*.
- A *Relevance Text* field has been added in the OPT Employment and CPT Employment sections. This field will be populated with the text from the *Explain how the employment is related to course work* and the *Explain how the employment is curricular* fields.
- The *Remarks* field in the OCE Employment section has been renamed *Recommendation*.

Filed and Waitlisted Cap-Gap Extensions

A PDSO/DSO may indicate that an F-1 student's employer has filed a COS petition from F-1 to H1-B on his/her behalf, or has received confirmation that the petition has been waitlisted. In order for the PDSO/DSO to select either Cap-Gap Extension status (Filed or Waitlisted), the student's program end date must be the current date or in the past, and the student must be able to provide proof that the petition has been filed or waitlisted.

When the Cap-Gap Extension petition is set to Filed or Waitlisted, if the student has a current, approved, post-completion OPT, the OPT end date will be updated to a new date (to be provided by Department of Homeland Security [DHS] each year). In addition, a comment will display in the following places:

- At the bottom of the *Student Information* screen
- In the Cap-Gap Extension section of the *Request/Authorization Details* screen
- On page 3 of the Form I-20

This comment addresses changes to the student's authorized length of stay in the United States and employment authorization (if applicable) pursuant to 8 CFR 214.2(f)(5)(iv) and 8 CFR 274a.12(b)(6)(iv).

In addition, when the Cap-Gap Extension petition is set to Filed or Waitlisted, the PDSO/DSO may cancel the petition. When the status is changed to Cancelled, the OPT end date (if previously updated) will revert back to its original date, and the comments will no longer display in any location.

OPT 6 Month Reporting

PDSO/DSOs will be required to report that an F-1 student with an Approved status OPT extension is participating in the employment segment. The reporting due dates will be 6 months and 12 months after the employment start date. The schools will have two reporting periods which will be 15 days before plus 31 days after each reporting due date.

A new alert, *Active Students Requiring OPT Reporting*, will list the students who have not reported, or have not had any OPT extension information updated within each reporting period.

If the PDSO/DSO does not report that the student is participating in the OPT extension, or does not update the OPT extension information within the reporting period, the student will automatically be set to Terminated status with a new reason of "Failure to Report while on OPT" 32 days after the reporting due date.

Pre and Post Completion OPT Selections

When adding an OPT segment, the PDSO/DSO will be required to select pre-completion or post-completion. If pre-completion is selected, the employment end date must be on or before the Program End Date. If post-completion OPT is selected, the employment start date must be on or after the Program End Date.

CPT and OPT Employment Start Date Validation

Additional validation will be added to validate the CPT and OPT employment start dates for F-1 students. The employment start date cannot be prior to the student's program start date; it must be on or after the program start date.

In addition, a validation error message that occurs when adding new CPT segments which overlap with OPT segments will be removed, as CPT segments are allowed to overlap.

OPT Statement on Dependent Form I-20

When printing a Form I-20 for a dependent whose associated student has current or future OPT, the system will print the following statement on page 3 of the I-20 and include the student's request status and OPT dates: Associated principal OPT Employment: [Request Status] [Employment Begin Date] - [Employment End Date].

Update Screen Design on Employment Screens

The format of the following screens will be updated to be consistent with the standard SEVIS design:

- Add OCE Employment
- View OCE Employment
- Edit OCE Employment
- View OPT Employment
- View OPT Extension

Deleting Employer Address

When editing a pending or approved OPT with a future end date, the user will be able to delete the employer address when a student is not employed.

Get Plug-Ins Link

The Get Adobe Reader link on the SEVIS navigation bar will be replaced with a Get Plug-Ins link. Selecting the link will take the user to a screen that contains links to download the Adobe Reader and Adobe Flash Player.

SEVIS Batch - J Program Sponsor Users

Note: Additional information can be found at <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/schools/batch.htm>.

Student Intern Category

A new subset of the College/University Student category, Student Intern, will be available with this release. The student intern is a foreign national enrolled in and pursuing a degree at an accredited post-secondary academic institution outside the United States and is participating in a student internship in the United States that will fulfill the educational objectives for his or her current degree program at his or her home institution.

Use of this category is permitted only by post-secondary accredited academic institutions (colleges and universities).

With the addition of the Student Intern category to Batch, one new Exchange Visitor (EV) category code and corresponding description will be added to the Program Category Codes lookup table.

Exchange Visitor Category Code	Exchange Visitor Category Description
1G	STUDENT INTERN

When creating a Student Intern record via Batch, the sponsor will be required to enter a foreign degree level and a foreign field of study. The sponsor may also edit the foreign degree level and a foreign field of study for an Initial (prior to the issuance of a visa) or Active status Student Intern. These new elements will be added to the Create-Update EV schema for both **EV.SubjectField** and **EV.Program.EditSubject** events. Lastly, the Matriculate action will not be permitted for Student Interns.

Country Code Table Update

The Birth Country Codes, Citizenship/Residence Country Codes, and Passport Issuing Country Codes lookup tables will be modified per a National Geo-Spatial Intelligence Agency's Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) 10-4 Change Notice.

Two new countries will be added:

Country Code	Country Description
KV	Kosovo
RI	Serbia

One country code will be removed:

Country Code	Country Description
RB	Serbia

The SEVISTable.xsd file will be updated to reflect these changes.

SEVIS Real Time Interactive – J Program Sponsor Users

Pending Transfer List

The name of the Transferred Status Exchange Visitors and Dependents list will be changed to Transferred In Exchange Visitors and Dependents. The list will be updated to display an EV transferring into a program as soon as the transfer-out has been submitted. The receiving sponsor will still not be able to update an EV's record until the effective date of transfer.

Sanctions, Termination and Revocation of Programs

SEVIS has been enhanced to include Subpart D-Sanctions (22 CFR 62.50) and Subpart E - Termination and Revocation of Programs (22 CFR 62.60) of the Exchange Visitor Program regulations. As such, the Program Sponsor Information Screen will include fields that will contain information in the event a sanctions or termination and revocation action is taken by the Department of State.

Alternate Between Professor and Research Scholar

The Responsible Officer (RO)/Alternate Responsible Officer (ARO) will be able to change an EV's category from professor to research scholar or from research scholar to professor without formal approval from the Department of State. This change in category does not require the RO/ARO to print a new Form DS-2019 for the EV and any associated dependents. The Department of State (DoS) must have authorized the sponsor the use of both categories (research scholar and professor) in order for the sponsor to be able to facilitate a change of these categories on the EV's SEVIS record. A change in categories will not alter (extend) the EV's current program duration.

Student Intern Category

A new subset of the College/University Student category, Student Intern, will be available with this release. The student intern is a foreign national enrolled in and pursuing a degree at an accredited post-secondary academic institution outside the United States and is participating in a student internship in the United States that will fulfill the educational objectives for his or her current degree program at his or her home institution.

Use of this category is permitted only by post-secondary accredited academic institutions (colleges and universities).

When a Student - Intern EV record is created, the system will require the user to enter the EV's foreign degree level and foreign field of study.

Get Plug-Ins Link

The Get Adobe Reader link on the SEVIS navigation bar will be replaced with a Get Plug-Ins link. Selecting the link will take the user to a screen that contains links to download the Adobe Reader and Adobe Flash Player.

User Manuals, Online Help, and Tutorials

The SEVIS Online Help and user manuals for school and program sponsor users will be updated as necessary to reflect the changes implemented into SEVIS Release 6.0.