



Our office is excited to share this new monthly update. It is full of immigration updates and compliance reminders. This is general information and may not apply directly to everyone.



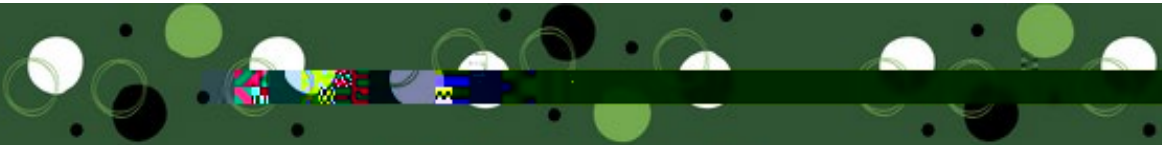
For students applying for or approved for STEM Extension OPT, on September 18, 2023, DHS announced a change in signature requirements for the Form I-981 to include electronic signatures. SEVP will now accept the following formats:

- Physical/Wet Signature
- Electronic signatures using software programs or applications
- Electronically reproduced copies of a signature



For F1 students with an approved change of status to H1B with a start date of October 1, 2023, they should upload the change of status Approval Notice to iStart under Immigration Updates Update Visa Stamp or Status. This will ensure the accuracy of the SEVIS record and allow our team to appropriately close out the SEVIS record. After closure, the student is no longer subject to the F-1 and OPT reporting requirements.

If the approval notice is H-1B Consulate Processing, this is not an automatic change to H-1B. The F-1 student needs to travel outside the US to a US consulate to obtain an H-1B visa stamp. Then re-32e-



Office of International Services
4202 E Fowler Ave, Room 255 - Tampa, FL 33620
<https://www.usf.edu/world/international-services/>

Virtual Drop-In via Teams (E-Form in iStart) Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 11am-1pm & Thurs 1pm-2pm

Walk-in Hours (PEH Main) Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 1pm-3pm

Visit Schedule to USF St Pete & Sarasota <https://www.usf.edu/world/international-services/about-us/contact-us.asp>