



# Portland Community College International Student Services

## Update for F-1 Prospective International Students (07/15/2020)

07/15/2020

Dear Fall 2020 Prospective International Students,

As I'm sure you have heard in the news, the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) had recently proposed restrictive guidelines for F-1 international students for Fall 2020 (and possibly beyond). They were planning to make it impossible for students to get or keep their I-20s if their classes were all online. However, we want to share the wonderful news that DHS has decided **NOT** to put those proposed changes into effect! Instead, we will be able to follow the guidelines set out in March 2020.

What does this mean for prospective international students?

- **Transfer Students:**
  - If your I-20 is in active status, you will be able to transfer to PCC and keep your I-20 in active status while taking classes (online/remote, in-person, or hybrid) from in or outside the US, but you must first go through orientation and register for classes.
- **Students who have an Initial I-20 from PCC (includes Change of Status) :**
  - If your I-20 is in initial status and you are in the US, you will be able to activate your I-20 while taking classes (online/remote, in-person, or hybrid) in the US. You will be able to leave the US after your I-20 has been activated, but you must first report to PCC, go through orientation, and register for classes.
  - If your I-20 is in initial status and you are outside the US:
    - You can begin taking PCC online/remote classes from abroad.
    - DHS has decided that you must remain abroad at this time.
      - We will send you an updated I-20 with new dates for the term you are able to come to the US.
- **Students with Fall 2020 PCC applications in process:**
  - If you are in the US:
    - We will continue to process your application for Fall 2020.
    - You will be able to activate your I-20 while taking classes (online/remote, in-person, or hybrid) in the US. You will be able to leave the US after your I-20 has been activated, but you must first report to PCC, go through orientation, and register for classes.
  - If you are outside the US:
    - You can begin taking PCC online/remote classes from abroad, even while your application is still being processed.
    - DHS has decided that you must remain abroad at this time.  
You can defer your application to a future term.

Also, there has been an announcement by the US State Department that they will begin opening visa offices as of July 15, 2020, but it is unclear at this point exactly which offices in which countries will be open. Please continue to check with your [nearest US embassy/consulate](#).

I know that the news of harsh restrictions must have been very upsetting. It was for all of us at PCC. Please know that the PCC community and the Office of International Student Services stands with international students. **You are truly welcome at PCC, in Portland, and in the US!**

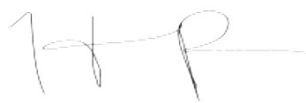
For specific questions and further support with your application to PCC, please continue to reach out to the International Admissions Team ([international@pcc.edu](mailto:international@pcc.edu)).

We are so looking forward to welcoming you in Fall 2020 (or a future term)!

All the best,



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