

April 07, 2025

THE 8TH ANNUAL HBCU BATTLE OF THE

Congratulations to our HT students who participated in the 8th annual HBCU Battle of the Brains. The 5-day event took place in Metro-Austin on March 12-16, 2025. HT placed second, after Morehouse College. Our students were rewarded with a check of \$10,000 cash for their efforts.

There were over 30 HBCUs participating in this event. We are beyond proud of our scholars!



UNCERTAINTY IN INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Due to uncertainties in immigration policies and potential risks upon re-entry into the US, many universities are advising international students to re-think their international travel plans. This advisory stems from incidents where some F-1 students have had their visas revoked and deported due to alleged political activities.

However, if you must travel out of the country, below is a list of documents that you will need to re-enter the US

All F-1 students should take the documents listed below.

1. Mandatory Documents

- a. **Current Passport:** Valid for at least 6 months in the future.
- b. **Unexpired F-1 Visa** (stamped in your passport).
- c. **Current Form I-20:** DSO's signature on page 2 must be less than 1 year old when you.

2. Recommended Documents

- a. **Financial info** showing proof of funds to cover tuition and living costs (Bank Statement, Internship, Scholarship Letter, Etc.)
- b. **Proof of registration** for the current or coming semester
- c. **Transcript copy** (official is preferred)
- d. **Contact information on DSO** (sometimes Customs agents will want proof that you are an HT student)

If traveling on active OPT, you should take these additional documents.

- a. **EAD Card** (work authorization card)
- b. **Employment Verification Letter** (from your employer)

If you have applied for the OPT and it is pending, travel is not recommended.

- a. The EAD card cannot be mailed to a foreign address. So, if your OPT is approved while you are outside of the US, you would not have the EAD card to show Customs upon re-entry.

SCHOOL TRANSFER FOR F-1 STUDENTS

If you plan to attend another school next semester, you must request the release of your SEVIS record to your new school on a date that you choose.

SEVIS Transfer Overview

A student who maintains a valid F-1 status may transfer from one SEVP school like HT to another school. The transfer process automatically moves a student's SEVIS record while keeping the same SEVIS identification number.

The most common types of SEVIS transfers for HT students are:

- a. **when a student transfers** to another school to complete their degree at another institution, and
- b. when a student completes one degree and plans to begin a new program or degree at another school (Example: from bachelor's to master's degree).

SEVIS Transfer Eligibility

A student may be eligible for a SEVIS transfer if:

- a. Student is maintaining legal F-1 status at his or her current school
- b. Student has been admitted by the "transfer-in" school

- b. Student notifies DSO at current school of plan to transfer to another school and provides all required documents to complete the transfer request. Required documents are:
- New school acceptance letter
 - New school Transfer-In Form
 - HT Transfer-Out Form.
- b. The new program start date at the new school must begin at the next available session (fall, winter or spring).

Financially Cleared (Important Notice)

If you owe HT any monies, then it is your responsibility to clear your account. Transfers will not be honored until you have a “zero” account balance with the business office.

SEVIS transfer/release date

- The SEVIS Release Date is the date on which you have asked to transfer your SEVIS record to the new school. The new school cannot issue a new I-20 until after the release date.
- ON or AFTER the release date, you cannot change the request in any way.

Cancelling your SEVIS Transfer

If you wish to cancel your SEVIS transfer, you must notify OIP **before** the release date. Once the release date is reached, the new school where you are transferring has full access to your SEVIS record. After that date, HT cannot access your SEVIS record anymore.