

# INITIAL ATTENDANCE

V E R S U S

# CONTINUED ATTENDANCE

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WHAT IS MY F-1 STATUS DURING COVID-19 -  
AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Initial I-20s are issued to begin a period of F-1 status - there are a few types of initial I-20s:

True initial - this is your first time studying in the U.S.

Transfer pending - you're joining the UW after full-time study at another U.S. School.

Change of level - you've just completed a degree at UW and are enrolling in a new, program.

Your F-1 status can only be activated when you enter the U.S. True initials are also required to take one in-person class in their first quarter in the U.S.

Your F-1 status is NOT active if you study outside the U.S. The F-1 rules do not apply to you and you are not eligible for F-1 benefits (CPT, OPT) until you enter the U.S. and ISS activates your record.

Continued attendance I-20s are for students who continue to attend the same school and program without interruption. You must have previously activated your SEVIS record with in-person study in the U.S.

If you have been enrolled, at your current degree level, at the UW before, you can think of yourself as having a continued attendance I-20.

Your F-1 status is not based on your physical presence during COVID-19 - you can enroll online or in-person from the U.S. or abroad.

Regardless of your location, you have F-1 status. The F-1 rules apply to you and you may be eligible for F-1 benefits (CPT, OPT).

STILL NOT SURE? FILL OUT THE HAVE A QUESTION FORM  
@ ISS.UW.EDU WITH YOUR SPECIFIC CONCERNS.