

Syracuse University
September 10, 2015 Edition
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IN THIS EDITION

Events and Programs to Introduce you to Campus & Community

Important Issues

- Deadlines: Certificate of Full Time Status, Last Semester Memo
- STEM OPT Update

Slutzker Center News and Events

- Mix It Up
- Address Update
- I-20 Form Redesign
- Connections Program Photo

Syracuse University Events

- Apple Festival
- Pay international tuition fees

Cultural and Community Events

- Syracuse Irish Festival

Important Reminders

Important Issues

Deadlines

**Graduate Students: Certificate of Full Time Status
September 21, 2015**

Note: Effective this year, the Graduate School has implemented a deadline for submission of the Certificate of Full Time Status to the Registrar's Office. The deadline to submit this certification is the financial deadline to drop a class for each Fall and Spring semester. In Fall 2015, the financial drop deadline is September 21.

To be considered full-time for immigration purposes, a graduate student must be registered for 9 credit hours per semester except in the last semester (if fewer credits are needed to graduate), OR you file a [Certificate of Full Time Status](#). Therefore, for immigration purposes graduate students must file the Certificate of Full Time Status with the Registrar's Office by September 21, 2015.

**All Students: Last Semester Memo
September 21, 2015**

If Fall 2015 will be your last semester, and you are registered less than full-time (Graduate students: 9 credit hours, Undergraduate students: 12 credit hours) you must file a [Last Semester Memo](#) with the Slutzker Center no later than September 21.

Note: you can only have one last semester. Please discuss any concerns you have about not being able to graduate with your academic department before you submit this form. Once you submit a Last Semester Memo, we will adjust the expected completion date on your I-20 accordingly.

Both forms are available on our website, under [forms](#).

STEM OPT Update

On August 12, 2015, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia issued a court decision finding that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) did not follow required procedures when it created the STEM extension of Optional Practical Training (OPT) back in 2008. The Court decision dictates that the STEM extension of OPT will no longer exist after February 12, 2016 but gives DHS six months (from August 12, 2015 until February 12, 2016) to submit the STEM extension regulations again following proper procedures. These six months should give DHS enough time to reissue the STEM extension regulations following proper procedures.

In the meantime, this court decision has no immediate impact on the employment authorization of students currently authorized for the STEM extension of OPT. This court decision does not prevent students who are eligible for the STEM extension of OPT from applying for the STEM extension by February 12, 2016. To be eligible for the STEM extension of OPT, you must be authorized for OPT on the basis of your program of study in a STEM field and have employment with an employer that participates in E-verify. You may apply for the STEM extension up to 120 days before the end date of your authorized OPT.

We have been informed that DHS is reviewing this court decision and will issue guidance in the next few weeks. We will inform you of any guidance we receive.

Slutzker Center News and Events

Mix It Up September 18, 5-7 PM Schine 304

Mix It Up is Friday, September 18 at 5 PM in Schine 304. This is a great way to meet new and returning students and enjoy discussions. Dinner is provided.

Address Update

Remember to update your MYSlice record with your current address in Syracuse.

Follow the format of the example to the left.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Address 1: 123 Main St.
Address 2: Apt. 1 (room 1, Bldg.. 1, etc.)
City: Syracuse **State:** NY **Postal:** 13210
County: Onondaga

I-20 Form Redesign

On June 26, 2015, the Student Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) released a newly designed I-20 Form and requires that all active I-20s be replaced by July 1, 2016. You may continue to use your current I-20 Form for travel and as documentation for driver's licenses, Social Security Number applications, and I-9 verifications, until you receive the new I-20 Form.

The Slutzker Center is creating a plan to replace your I-20 during the Fall semester. Please watch the SCIS News for further information about this process.

Picture of the Week

Connections mentors and mentees enjoying a tour of Syracuse on Labor Day.



Syracuse University Events

Apple Festival September 11, 11 AM Quad

The festival provides the University community with an early fall opportunity to engage in a number of games, taste a variety of foods, shop at a local farmer's market, run, walk-n-roll in a fun race and connect with area vendors.

Click [here](#) for more information.



Use Western Union to pay international tuition fees

The Bursar's Office is excited to announce a better payment option for international students!

The University has partnered with Western Union Business Solutions to offer a robust, convenient and cost saving (competitive exchange rates and lower bank fees) method for you to make your Bursar bill payment to Syracuse University. More information, including a video can be found here:

<http://comptroller.syr.edu/html/payments.htm>.

If you have any questions, please email us at bursar@syr.edu.



Cultural and Community Events

Syracuse Irish Festival

September 11 – 12
See website for schedule
Clinton Square
West Genesee and South Clinton Streets

Enjoy amazing Irish food, vendors, music & more!

Click [here](#) for more information.



Important Reminders

[Full-Time Course of Study](#)

[Meeting Your Health Requirements](#)

[HR notice for on-campus employees](#)

[Is it your last semester of study?](#)

[Transferring from SU to a new U.S. school](#)

[Optional Practical Training EAD cards](#)

[Address Change Reporting Requirements](#)

[Keeping Good Rental Records](#)

[Protecting Your Property](#)

[US Embassy Announcements](#)

[Check your VISA Application Status in India](#)

[E-Verify Employers & Federal Contractors List](#)

[Copycat "Immigration Help" Sites](#)

[CPT/OPT Seminars](#)

[Studying Abroad](#)

[International Student Arrests & Public Safety](#)

“Do the right thing. It will gratify some people and astonish the rest.” - **Mark Twain**



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