

Syracuse University
September 4, 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

- Seminar Schedule Change
- Mix It Up
- Address Update
- I-20 Form Redesign

Syracuse University Events

- Workshop: Considering Graduate School
- Pay international tuition fees
- Syracuse University Tobacco Ban

Cultural and Community Events

- New York State Fair

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

Practical Training Seminars September 11

Location Change 105 Hall of Languages

On Friday, September 11, the Curricular Practical Training (CPT) and Optional Practical Training (OPT) seminars will be held in Hall of Languages 105. CPT begins at 3:00 PM and OPT begins at 3:45 PM.

Mix It Up September 4, 6-8PM Schine 304

The first Mix It Up of the fall semester is Friday, September 4 at 6 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.

Syracuse University Events

Workshop: Considering Graduate School
September 9, 4:30 – 5:30 PM
500 Hall of Languages

If you are considering graduate school, law school, or professional school, this workshop will feature information on what to consider when exploring grad school, the application process, and how to research your options.

For more information, click [here](#).

**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.



Syracuse University introduced Tobacco Ban July 1, 2015

Please keep in mind, Syracuse University implemented a campus wide [tobacco ban](#) on Wednesday, July 1. Considering the harmful effects that second hand smoke can have on health, Syracuse University aims to create a smoke free, healthy environment. SU has banned tobacco on all university properties.

For more information about the decision to implement this policy, see the [Daily Orange](#). Maps of areas where smoking is and is not permitted are available for the [Main Campus](#) and [South Campus](#).

Cultural and Community Events

Great New York State Fair
August 27 – September 7
Empire Expo Center – New York State Fairgrounds
581 State Fair Blvd. 13209

The Fair is a mix of entertainment, food, exhibits and other attractions which draws thousands of people every summer.

[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](#)

"Friends are the siblings God never gave us." - **Mencius**



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If you would like to submit news or events for the SCIS Newsletter, please send your information and any related graphics to ejvoigt@syr.edu with subject line as "Article for SCIS Newsletter"