

INTERIM RELIEF FOR CERTAIN FOREIGN ACADEMIC STUDENTS ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY HURRICANE KATRINA Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

On November 25, 2005, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) published a [Federal Register Notice \(Notice\)](#), which temporarily suspended the applicability of certain requirements related to on-campus and off-campus employment for a specifically designated group of F-1 students. This temporary relief enables qualified F-1 students, who were adversely affected by Hurricane Katrina, to work additional hours on-campus, or work off-campus if employment authorization is granted. F-1 students who are granted employment authorization pursuant to the Notice may likewise reduce their course load for the duration of their employment authorization to the minimum course load requirement set forth in the Notice.

Since the Notice does not cover Katrina-impacted foreign academic students who have failed to maintain their F-1 status, such persons, and their F-2 dependents, may request a grant of deferred action and short-term employment authorization based on economic necessity.

Q. Why is USCIS taking this action?

A. Hurricane Katrina caused severe loss of life and extensive property damage, and disrupted normal activities, in the states of Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi. As a result of this catastrophic natural disaster, many of the approximately 5,500 F-1 students, who were enrolled in DHS-approved academic institutions located in the areas adversely affected by Hurricane Katrina, have been suffering severe economic hardship and have been experiencing difficulty in satisfying the normal regulatory requirements for maintaining valid F-1 status, which include the pursuit of a “full course of study.” See 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6). USCIS is taking action to provide temporary relief to these F-1 students.

Q. For whom specifically is USCIS taking this action?

A. The interim relief covered in this FAQ was developed specifically for F-1 students who: (1) on August 29, 2005, were lawfully present in the United States in F-1 status and were enrolled in a DHS-approved institution located in an area adversely affected by Hurricane Katrina; and (2) are experiencing severe economic hardship as direct result of Hurricane Katrina. Hereinafter, this group will be referred to as “*Affected F-1 Students*.”

Q. Which DHS-approved academic institutions have been deemed to be located in the areas adversely affected by Hurricane Katrina?

A. Following is a list of the specific campuses of DHS-approved academic institutions that have been deemed to be located in the areas adversely affected by Hurricane Katrina.

SCHOOL NAME	CAMPUS NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Academy of the Sacred Heart	New Orleans	LA	70115
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Christian Brothers School	New Orleans	LA	70124
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Henriette DeLille	New Orleans	LA	70126
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Holy Cross	New Orleans	LA	70117
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Holy Ghost	New Orleans	LA	70115
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Holy Name of Jesus	New Orleans	LA	70118
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Holy Rosary Academy	New Orleans	LA	70119
Archdiocese of New Orleans	House of the Holy Family	New Orleans	LA	70126
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Immaculate Heart of Mary	New Orleans	LA	70126
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Marian Central Catholic Middle School	New Orleans	LA	70122
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Our Lady of Lourdes	New Orleans	LA	70115
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Resurrection of Our Lord	New Orleans	LA	70127
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Alphonsus	New Orleans	LA	70130
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Anthony of Padua	New Orleans	LA	70119
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Benedict the Moor	New Orleans	LA	70126
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. David	New Orleans	LA	70117
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Dominic	New Orleans	LA	70124
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Frances Xavier Cabrini	New Orleans	LA	70122
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Joan of Arc	New Orleans	LA	70118
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Joseph Central Catholic Elementary	New Orleans	LA	70122
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Leo the Great	New Orleans	LA	70119
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Mary of the Angels	New Orleans	LA	70117
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Paul the Apostle	New Orleans	LA	70126
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Pius X	New Orleans	LA	70124
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Raymond	New Orleans	LA	70122
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Stephen	New Orleans	LA	70115
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Stuart Hall School for Boys	New Orleans	LA	70118
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Ursuline Academy	New Orleans	LA	70118
Archdiocese of New Orleans	All Saints	New Orleans	LA	70114
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Holy Name of Mary	New Orleans	LA	70114
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Our Lady of Divine Providence	Metairie	LA	70003
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Our Lady of Perpetual Help	Kenner	LA	70062
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Angela Merici	Metairie	LA	70002
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Benilde	Metairie	LA	70001
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Catherine of Siena	Metairie	LA	70005
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Christopher	Metairie	LA	70001
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Clement of Rome	Metairie	LA	70002
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Edward the Confessor	Metairie	LA	70001
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Kenner	LA	70065
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Francis Xavier	Metairie	LA	70005
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Louis King of France	Metairie	LA	70005
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Mary Magdalen	Metairie	LA	70003
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Matthew the Apostle	River Ridge	LA	70123

Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Philip Neri	Metairie	LA	70003
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Rita	Harahan	LA	70123
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Immaculate Conception	Marrero	LA	70072
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Our Lady of Prompt Succor	Westwego	LA	70094
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Anthony	Gretna	LA	70053
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Cletus	Gretna	LA	70053
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Joseph the Worker	Marrero	LA	70072
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Rosalie	Harvey	LA	70058
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Visitation of Our Lady	Marrero	LA	70072
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Our Lady of Perpetual Help	Belle Chasse	LA	70037
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Our Lady of Prompt Succor	Chalmette	LA	70043
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Louise DeMarillac	Arabi	LA	70032
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Mark	Chalmette	LA	70043
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Robert Bellarmine	Arabi	LA	70032
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Sacred Heart of Jesus	Norco	LA	70079
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Charles Borromeo	Destrehan	LA	70047
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Ascension of Our Lord	LaPlace	LA	70068
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Our Lady of Grace	Reserve	LA	70084
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Joan of Arc	LaPlace	LA	70068
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Peter	Reserve	LA	70084
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Mary, Queen of Peace	Mandeville	LA	70471
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Our Lady of Lourdes	Slidell	LA	70458
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Margaret Mary	Slidell	LA	70458
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Peter	Covington	LA	70433
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Annunciation	Bogalusa	LA	70427
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Brother Martin	New Orleans	LA	70122
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Cabrini	New Orleans	LA	70119
Archdiocese of New Orleans	DeLaSalle	New Orleans	LA	70115
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Jesuit	New Orleans	LA	70119
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Mount Carmel Academy	New Orleans	LA	70124
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Redeemer-Seton	New Orleans	LA	70122
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Augustine	New Orleans	LA	70119
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Gerard Majella Alternative School	New Orleans	LA	70122
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Mary's Academy	New Orleans	LA	70126
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Xavier University Prep	New Orleans	LA	70115
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Archbishop Chapelle	Metairie	LA	70003
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Archbishop Rummel	Metairie	LA	70001
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Archbishop Blenk	Gretna	LA	70053
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Archbishop Shaw	Marrero	LA	70072
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Immaculata	Marrero	LA	70072
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Archbishop Hannan	Meraux	LA	70075
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Charles Catholic	LaPlace	LA	70068
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Pope John Paul II	Slidell	LA	70461
Archdiocese of New Orleans	The Saint Paul's School	Covington	LA	70433
Archdiocese of New Orleans	St. Scholastica Academy	Covington	LA	70433

Bass Memorial Academy	Bass Memorial Academy	Lumberton	MS	39455
Delgado Community College	Delgado Community College	New Orleans	LA	70119
Dillard University	Dillard University	New Orleans	LA	70122
East Central Community College	East Central Community College	Decatur	MS	39327
East Mississippi Community College	Scooba Campus	Scooba	MS	39358
Ecole Classique	Ecole Classique	New Orleans	LA	70112
English Language Center	University of South Alabama	Mobile	AL	36688
Faulkner State Community College	Faulkner State Community College	Bay Minette	AL	36507
Faulkner University	Faulkner University at Mobile	Mobile	AL	36609
John Curtis Christian School	John Curtis Christian School	River Ridge	LA	70123
Kaplan Test Prep, a division of Kaplan, Inc.	Kaplan Test Prep - New Orleans, LA	New Orleans	LA	70118
Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center	Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center	New Orleans	LA	70006
Loyola University New Orleans	Loyola University New Orleans	New Orleans	LA	70118
Lutheran High School	Lutheran High School	Metairie	LA	70002
Meridian Community College	Meridian Community College	Meridian	MS	39307
Metairie Park Country Day School	Metairie Park Country Day School	Metairie	LA	70005
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College	Perkinston Campus	Perkinston	MS	39573
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College	Jefferson Davis Campus	Gulfport	MS	39507
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College	Jackson County Campus	Gautier	MS	39553
Mobile County Public Schools	Division Of Student Support Services	Mobile	AL	36602
Mobile County Public Schools	Baker High	Mobile	AL	36608
Mobile County Public Schools	Blount High	Prichard	AL	36610
Mobile County Public Schools	Bryant High	Irvington	AL	36544
Mobile County Public Schools	Citronelle High	Citronelle	AL	36522
Mobile County Public Schools	Davidson High	Mobile	AL	36609
Mobile County Public Schools	Montgomery High	Semmes	AL	36575
Mobile County Public Schools	Murphy High	Mobile	AL	36606
Mobile County Public Schools	Rain High	Mobile	AL	36605
Mobile County Public Schools	Satsuma High	Satsuma	AL	36572
Mobile County Public Schools	Shaw High	Mobile	AL	36608
Mobile County Public Schools	Theodore High	Theodore	AL	36582
Mobile County Public Schools	Vigor High	Prichard	AL	36610
Mobile County Public Schools	Williamson High	Mobile	AL	36605
Modern Languages Institute	Modern Languages Institute	New Orleans	LA	70130
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary	New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary	New Orleans	LA	70126
Nicholls State University	Nicholls State University	Thibodaux	LA	70301
Notre Dame Seminary	Notre Dame Seminary	New Orleans	LA	70118
Nunez Community College	Nunez Community College	Chalmette	LA	70043
Our Lady Holy Cross College	Our Lady Holy Cross College	New Orleans	LA	70131
Picayune School District	Picayune Memorial High School	Picayune	MS	39466
Remington College	Remington College	Metairie	LA	70005
Reserve Christian School	Reserve Christian School	Reserve	LA	70084
Ridgewood Preparatory School	Ridgewood Preparatory School	Metairie	LA	70001
Riverside Academy Corporation	Riverside Academy	Reserve	LA	70084

Saint Joseph Seminary College	St. Benedict	St. Benedict	LA	70457
School of Urban Missions	New Orleans School of Urban Missions	Gretna	LA	70053
Southeastern Baptist College	Southeastern Baptist College	Laurel	MS	39440
Southeastern Louisiana University	Southeastern Louisiana University	Hammond	LA	70402
Southern University at New Orleans	Southern University at New Orleans	New Orleans	LA	70126
Spring Hill College	Spring Hill College	Mobile	AL	36608
St. Paul's Episcopal School	St. Paul's Episcopal School	Mobile	AL	36608
St. Stanislaus College Prep	St. Stanislaus College Prep	Bay St. Louis	MS	39520
St. Stanislaus College Prep	Mercy Cross High School	Biloxi	MS	39530
St. Stanislaus College Prep	St. John High School	Gulfport	MS	39501
St. Stanislaus College Prep	Resurrection Catholic School	Pascagoula	MS	39567
St. Stanislaus College Prep	Nativity, B. V. M.	Biloxi	MS	39530
St. Stanislaus College Prep	Sacred Heart	Hattiesburg	MS	39401
The University of Southern Mississippi	Hattiesburg Campus	Hattiesburg	MS	39406
The University of Southern Mississippi	English Language Institute	Hattiesburg	MS	39406
Top Garden School	Top Garden School	Irvington	AL	36544
Tulane University	Tulane University	New Orleans	LA	70118
United States Sports Academy	United States Sports Academy	Daphne	AL	36526
University of Mobile	University of Mobile	Mobile	AL	36613
University of New Orleans	University of New Orleans	New Orleans	LA	70148
University of New Orleans	UNO Intensive English Language Program	New Orleans	LA	70148
University of South Alabama	University of South Alabama	Mobile	AL	36688
William Carey College	William Carey College	Hattiesburg	MS	39401
Xavier University of Louisiana	Xavier University of Louisiana	New Orleans	LA	70125

Q. Will *Affected F-1 Students* who have since transferred to other DHS-approved institutions still qualify for the interim relief discussed in this FAQ?

A. *Affected F-1 Students*, who have since transferred to another DHS-approved institution, but who otherwise satisfy the eligibility criteria listed above in this FAQ under the section “*For whom specifically is DHS taking this action,*” remain eligible for the interim relief discussed in this FAQ.

Q. Which *Affected F-1 Students* are covered by the Notice and what relief is available to these students?

A. To be covered by the Notice, an *Affected F-1 Student* must be maintaining valid F-1 status, which includes pursuing a full course of study. *Affected F-1 Students* covered by the Notice may obtain short-term employment authorization for off-campus employment or additional hours of on-campus employment. Furthermore, *Affected F-1 Students* who are granted employment authorization pursuant to the Notice may consequently reduce their course load to no less than the minimum course load requirement set forth in the Notice for the duration of their employment authorization.

F-2 dependents (spouse or minor children) of *Affected F-1 Students* who are covered by the Notice would be considered, if otherwise eligible, to be maintaining valid F-2 status, provided the *Affected F-1 Student* continues to maintain valid F-1 status. F-2 dependents of *Affected F-1 Students* covered by the Notice, however, are not authorized to engage in employment in the United States, irrespective of whether the *Affected F-1 Student* has been granted employment authorization.

Q. How do *Affected F-1 Students* covered by the Notice apply for on-campus employment authorization pursuant to the Notice?

A. *Affected F-1 Students* covered by the Notice, who wish to pursue more than 20 hours per week of on-campus employment pursuant to the Notice, must obtain permission from their current Designated School Official (DSO). Complete instructions can be found in the Notice under the section entitled, “*How may F-1 students covered by this Notice obtain employment authorization pursuant to this Notice?*”

Q. How do *Affected F-1 Students* covered by the Notice apply for off-campus employment authorization pursuant to the Notice?

A. *Affected F-1 Students* covered by the Notice, who wish to obtain off-campus employment authorization pursuant to the Notice, must file a complete Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, with required supporting documentation and prescribed fee, with the USCIS Texas Service Center at:

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Texas Service Center
P.O. Box 853062
Mesquite, TX 75815-3062

The front of the envelope, on the bottom right-hand side, should include the following notation: "HURRICANE KATRINA SPECIAL STUDENT RELIEF." Complete instructions can be found in the Notice under the section entitled, “*How may F-1 students covered by this Notice obtain employment authorization pursuant to this Notice?*”

Q. What is the minimum course load requirement set forth in the Notice for *Affected F-1 Students* who are granted employment authorization pursuant to the Notice?

A. *Affected F-1 Students* engaged in undergraduate studies and who are granted employment authorization pursuant to the Notice must remain registered for a minimum of six (6) semester/quarter hours of instruction per academic term. *Affected F-1 Students* engaged in graduate studies and who are granted employment authorization pursuant to the Notice must remain registered for a minimum of three (3) semester/quarter hours of instruction per academic term.

Q. How is off-campus employment authorization granted pursuant to the Notice different from off-campus employment authorization granted pursuant to the existing provision [See 8 CFR 214.2(f)(9)(ii)]?

A. One key difference between off-campus employment authorization provided by the Notice and off-campus employment authorization under the existing provision is that *Affected F-1 Students* who are granted employment authorization pursuant to the Notice may reduce their course load for the duration of their employment authorization.

Q. What relief is available to *Affected F-1 Students* not covered by the Notice?

A. *Affected F-1 Students* not covered by the Notice may request deferred action and employment authorization based on economic necessity. A grant of deferred action in this context means that, during the period that the grant of deferred action remains in effect, DHS will not seek the removal of the *Affected F-1 Student* (or his or her F-2 dependents) based on the fact that the *Affected F-1 Student's* failure to maintain status is directly due to Hurricane Katrina. A grant of deferred action, however, does not provide an alien any legal immigration status in the United States. *Affected F-1 Students* who are granted deferred action are eligible to apply for short-term employment authorization, provided they demonstrate economic necessity.

F-2 dependents of *Affected F-1 Students* who are granted deferred action would also be eligible for deferred action for the period granted to the *Affected F-1 Student*. Although F-2 dependents are not authorized to engage in employment in the United States, F-2 dependents who are granted deferred action are eligible to apply for short-term employment authorization, provided they likewise demonstrate economic necessity.

Q. Will *Affected F-1 Students* not covered by the Notice who are granted deferred action be required to file for reinstatement?

A. Yes. Since deferred action does not confer any lawful status on an alien, *Affected F-1 Students* who were granted deferred action must apply and be approved for reinstatement in order to resume their F-1 status. See 8 CFR 214.2(f)(16). F-2 dependents, who were granted deferred action, are not required to apply for reinstatement, but would be considered, if otherwise eligible, to be maintaining valid F-2 status, provided the *Affected F-1 Student* is approved for reinstatement to valid F-1 status.

Q. How may *Affected F-1 Students* not covered by the Notice and their F-2 dependents (spouse and minor children) request deferred action and employment authorization based on economic necessity?

A. *Affected F-1 Students* not covered by the Notice and their F-2 dependents (spouse and minor children) may individually request deferred action by submitting a letter requesting consideration. The letter must contain the name and the SEVIS ID number of the applicant, and a written affidavit or unsworn declaration confirming that the applicant meets the eligibility criteria listed above in this FAQ under the section "*For whom*

specifically is DHS taking this action.” Since individuals who are granted deferred action are eligible to apply for employment authorization, *Affected F-1 Students* and their F-2 dependents who are applying for deferred action, may apply concurrently for employment authorization by filing a Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, with required supporting documentation and prescribed fee. Both letter requesting deferred action and the completed Form I-765 should be mailed to the USCIS Texas Service Center at:

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Texas Service Center
P.O. Box 853062
Mesquite, TX 75815-3062

The front of the envelope, on the bottom right-hand side, should include the following notation: "HURRICANE KATRINA SPECIAL STUDENT RELIEF."

Q. How may *Affected F-1 Students* request a waiver of the Form I-765 filing fee?

A. An *Affected F-1 Student* who is unable to pay the prescribed Form I-765 filing fee should include with the application package a written affidavit or unsworn declaration, requesting a fee waiver and explaining the reasons why s/he is unable to pay the prescribed fee.

Q. How long will the interim relief discussed in this FAQ remain in effect?

A. The interim relief discussed in this FAQ will remain in effect until February 1, 2006. Following February 1, 2006, *Affected F-1 Students* will again be subject to the normal regulatory requirements, including those related to employment authorization and maintenance of a full course of study. DHS will continue to monitor the adverse impact of Hurricane Katrina in the affected areas to determine if modification of the interim relief is warranted and will announce any such modifications in the *Federal Register*.

Q. Is there a cut-off date for filing for the interim relief discussed in this FAQ?

A. No. USCIS has not established a cut-off date for filing for the interim relief discussed in this FAQ. However, any benefits granted pursuant to the interim relief discussed herein will expire no later than February 1, 2006. While USCIS will exercise its best efforts to process such applications in as prompt a manner as possible, *Affected F-1 Students* (and their F-2 dependents) applying for such benefits should bear in mind this expiration date when submitting their application packages.

Q. Are *Affected F-1 Students* (both those covered by the Notice and those who are not) required to report their current address to DHS?

A. Yes. All aliens who are required to be registered with DHS also are required to inform DHS of their current address. F-1 students (and their F-2 dependents) are among

the aliens who are required to be registered. Section 265 of the INA requires aliens to report a change of address within 10 days of such change. If the alien fails to comply with the change of address requirements, s/he may be removable under Section 237(a)(3)(A) of the INA and subject to criminal or monetary penalties under Section 266(b) of the INA. Under 8 CFR 214.2(f)(17), F-1 students can satisfy this requirement by providing notice of a change of address within 10 days to their DSO, provided the DSO enters this information in SEVIS within 21 days of notification by the student. F-1 students who are subject to NSEERS must provide required updated information, including any change of address, pursuant to the terms of that program. See 8 CFR 264.1(f).

Q. Where are the cited Forms and additional information available?

A. Individuals may obtain the cited Forms from the USCIS website at <http://uscis.gov/> or by contacting the USCIS Forms Line at 1-800-870-3676. Additional information is through the USCIS National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283.

See the [November 25, 2005 Press Release](#)

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