

Student and Exchange Visitor Program

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street SW Stop 5600
Washington, DC 20536-5600



Applying for a Driver's License or State Identification Card

[documentation must a nonimmigrant present to the DMV?](#) For additional information specifically about accompanying spouses and dependents, see [What are the requirements for an accompanying dependent?](#)

What should a nonimmigrant do before applying for a driver's license or ID?

A nonimmigrant should contact the DSO or RO. The DSO or RO will provide guidance, assist in familiarizing the nonimmigrant with the expectations of the department of motor vehicles (DMV)¹ for that state or territory, and explain the general process for obtaining a driver's license or ID.

When can a nonimmigrant apply for a driver's license or ID?

Please be aware of the following timing requirements before applying for a driver's license or ID:

SEVP Fact Sheet 1103-02
Applying for a Driver's License or State Identification Card

A nonimmigrant who is ineligible for an SSN will receive a [Form SSA-L676](#). The nonimmigrant may have to present this letter when applying at the DMV office to fulfill the SSN requirement, if any.

What documents should a nonimmigrant on the cap gap extension present to verify legal presence?

A nonimmigrant should inform the DSO immediately after receiving an approval notice from USCIS for a change of status to H-1B. The DSO will print a new Form I-20 and give it to the nonimmigrant. In the comments section on Page 3 of the Form I-20, SEVIS will automatically update and will insert new language in the nonimmigrant's SEVIS record indicating the following:⁴

- The student's F-1 status and employment authorization, if applicable, have automatically extended to September 30, 20XX⁵.
- The student has authorization to remain in the United States and continue employment, if applicable, with an expired EAD.

The local DMV office will use the information on Page 3 of the Form I-20 to validate the nonimmigrant's duration of status through September 30.

2Uruid V0.245 0 Td-2 0 T1Bt 0 5 0 Tdys -25.995 -1.1-6(n)-1(l)MCID 15 BD055 f so d()Tj(a)-1(ut)-2(ho c)--2()3(e)-

- Improper nonimmigrant classification
- Inaccurate biographical information
- Incorrect period of admission

Officials at any [designated deferred inspection location](#) or CBP office located within an international airport can help, regardless of the location of the document's actual issuance. See the [CBP website](#) for more detailed information.

Can an F or M nonimmigrant apply for a driver's license if the Form I-20 is expired?

Yes. In many cases the nonimmigrant can apply for a driver's license but should consult with the local DMV and DSO before applying. The DMV requires a nonimmigrant to present supporting documentation, such as an EAD card, validating the duration of stay in the country. All documents should reflect the nonimmigrant's program or practical training period start date and end date in the United States.

Miscellaneous

Will all states add the 30 or 60-day grace period to a driver's license validity period?

No. Not every state adds the 30 or 60-day period after the program end date to the driver's license for an initial applicant and/or an applicant renewing a driver's license. While the SAVE system automatically accounts for grace periods, many states choose to issue a benefit that is valid until the program end date listed on the Form I-20 or Form DS-2019. Furthermore, the 60-day period allowed at the end of post-completion OPT does not apply to an applicant's driver's license validity period by any state or territory. A nonimmigrant should consult with the local DMV office before applying for a state driver's license or renewing a driver's license.

Which states add a 30-day grace period to a driver's license validity period after the program end date?

