

Transfer To Glendale Community College: Immigration Process

Academic Transfer vs Immigration Transfer

F-1 students planning to transfer to GCC from another school in the US must request a transfer of their immigration record to maintain valid immigration status. This is a separate process from requesting an academic transfer (applying as a transfer student to another school). The immigration transfer sends your electronic SEVIS record to your new school so that they may create an I-20 for you.

What is a Transfer Release Date?

The release date is the date that the new school will have access to your SEVIS record. Students may apply to many schools, but the SEVIS record can only be transferred to one school. Once the record is released to GCC from your current school, your transfer request cannot be changed.

When should I request a transfer?

You **must** request a transfer no later than 60 days after the end date of your current semester or no later than 60 days after your last day of Optional Practical Training (OPT). Please contact your current school for further advising on your deadline. Transfers may only be requested *after* admission – do not request a transfer until you are certain you want to attend GCC. Follow the steps below to properly request a transfer:

1. Obtain admission to Glendale Community College.
2. Contact your current school's international student office to provide them with our [Transfer Instructions](#) sheet. Most schools will also have their own transfer form you need to complete and may request a copy of your admission letter.
3. Your school will release your record electronically to Glendale Community College. All on or off-campus work authorization will end as of this release date. Please discuss an appropriate transfer release date with your school.
4. On the release date, GCC will receive your SEVIS record. Your current school's I-20 will no longer be valid.
5. **You will receive your new GCC I-20 after the start of the new term. You do not need an I-20 during this time, unless you plan on traveling outside of the US.** If you will be traveling outside of the US before starting at GCC, request a temporary "transfer pending" I-20 for travel by contacting us at gcciso@glendale.edu. You will be issued your final I-20 at the start of the school semester.

If you violate your F-1 status after requesting a transfer, you will become ineligible for transfer and will need to leave the US and apply for a new I-20 from abroad.

When must I start classes at GCC?

Your new program must start within 5 months of the last date of enrollment at your current school or the end date of your OPT. If the start date of the program at the new school will be more than five months, you do not qualify for a transfer. You will need to return home and apply for a new I-20 from that school. Please contact your current school for further advising on transfer eligibility.