Hi All,

The following message was sent to international students today regarding new guidance from the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) that will impact planning for the upcoming semester. Please share this communication with your faculty or other groups as appropriate or needed.

Dear students,

The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) has released guidance regarding international student enrollment for the Fall 2020 semester. More information will be provided by SEVP when this guidance is published in the Federal Register as a temporary final rule, so additional details and, we hope, clarity, will be forthcoming. More information will be shared as soon as possible.

ISSS is working closely with senior University leadership to develop policies and procedures to ensure the University is fully compliant with this new guidance. In the meantime, we wanted to provide a summary as it relates to UNC-Chapel Hill’s Roadmap to Fall 2020.

Since UNC-Chapel Hill is adopting a hybrid model of education this fall, including both in-person and online instruction, the following applies to current international students:

**Students who are residing in the United States for Fall 2020:**

- May take more than one online/distance education course to count toward their full-time enrollment status. SEVP did not specify exactly how many courses students are permitted to take online/remotely; however, students are not permitted to take all their courses online.
- Must be issued a new I-20 by the University by August 4th that confirms:
  - the University is not operating only online;
  - the student is not taking an exclusively online course load for the Fall 2020 semester; and
  - the student is enrolled in the minimum number of classes required to make normal progress toward degree

As noted above, the University procedures for complying with this guidance and issuing new I-20s is being developed. If, in the future, the University moves to all-online instruction, per SEVP guidance, F-1 students must then depart the United States or transfer to another school offering in-person classes.
Students who are residing outside the United States for Fall 2020:

- Since the University is offering a hybrid instruction model, a student cannot maintain his or her F-1 visa status while enrolled in online courses while residing abroad. In this instance, ISSS will need to terminate the student’s F-1 SEVIS record. Additional information about this process will be provided in a future email.

We know this recent SEVP guidance has generated many questions and concerns for our international students. In order to address your questions, we ask that you email any issues or questions to isss@unc.edu and use the subject line “Fall 2020 SEVP Guidance.”

Our international students are important members of the Carolina community. Please know that ISSS staff are here to support you and will do whatever we can to assist you during this complicated time.