



## SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

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CITY COLLEGE | MESA COLLEGE | MIRAMAR COLLEGE | CONTINUING EDUCATION

*Student Services*

July 10, 2020

Dear SDCCD International Students,

We are writing to inform you about recent actions affecting your student status and efforts the San Diego Community College District is taking to address these actions on your behalf.

On Monday, July 6, 2020, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) released updated guidelines (attached) related to the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP), regarding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. These potential changes could affect our students with F-1 and M-1 visas enrolled in online courses for fall 2020. The San Diego Community College District was deeply disappointed to hear of the direction from ICE about our international students. While the new rules are not final, this administration has signaled that:

- Students may not take a full online course load and remain in the United States.
- Students will not be allowed to enter the country if their program will be fully online.
- F-1 students attending schools operating in-person classes may take a maximum of one class or three credit hours online.
- F-1 students attending schools adopting a hybrid mixture of online and in-person classes—will be allowed to take more than one class or three credit hours online.
- Schools operating hybrid programs will be required to certify that requirements are met.
- Hybrid exception does not apply to F-1 students in English language training programs or to M-1 students pursuing vocational degrees and are not permitted to enroll in any online courses.

Understandably, changes to immigration policy and procedures may cause you concern and confusion. We urge you not to make any sudden decisions, changes to your academic schedule or immediate travel plans to return home. We encourage you to gather information and consider consulting with an immigration attorney to explore options such as changing your visa type or shifting your Student Visa into a Visitor Visa.

Earlier this week, institutions such as Harvard University and Princeton University filed lawsuits requesting these changes be blocked. Last night (July 9), the California Attorney General filed a lawsuit on behalf of the California Community Colleges and the California State University, which also seeks to block the changes ICE has announced. The American Council on Education has also sent a letter to Congress on behalf of all universities and colleges in the nation requesting a reversal of this policy. The San Diego Community College District is an active participant in these actions. While advocating on your behalf, we continue to seek clarity as we wait for the courts to make decision on these lawsuits. We anticipate more information soon and remain committed to providing you with updates.

You are part of our SDCCD family, and we value your intellectual, personal, and academic contributions that enrich our San Diego community. We are examining our options, as a district, to continue our

promise in supporting your educational journey. As you know, SDCCD courses will primarily be online this fall as we would never compromise the health and safety of our students or employees.

We remain committed to ensuring the continued success of all our international students and will advocate for justice.

Stay strong,

Ramon L. Knox, Interim Vice Chancellor of Student Services

Constance M. Carroll, Chancellor, San Diego Community College District

Ricky Shabazz, President, San Diego City College

Pam Luster, President, San Diego Mesa College

Wes Lundburg, President, San Diego Miramar College

Carlos Turner Cortez, President, San Diego Continuing Education