

## **Broadcast Message: Updated Certification Expiration Date Process**

**To:** All SEVIS users

**Date:** Feb. 25, 2020

**Number:** 2002-04

---

### **General Information**

The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) is required by regulation to recertify all SEVP-certified schools every two years. A school's certification expiration date (CED) is exactly two years from the date of initial certification or the date of previous recertification.

In response to the [March 2019 U.S. Government Accountability Office \(GAO\) recommendation](#) for SEVP to more precisely establish a two-year recertification cycle, any school that is certified or recertified after March 1, 2020, will receive their next CED notice 180 days before the two-year deadline. Schools will continue to receive their CED notification through an automatic Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS)-generated email.

Previously, SEVP notified schools for recertification two years after the date of their certification or last recertification. SEVP then gave schools 180 days beyond the two-year mark to submit for recertification. Under this process, schools were permitted to submit their complete petition and supporting documentation to SEVP up to 180 days after the two-year mark, resulting in a two-and-a-half-year recertification submission cycle.

Moving forward, SEVP will work to ensure all schools are notified and submit their complete recertification petition and supporting documentation within the 2-year timeframe, as recommended in the GAO audit and as required by the law.

To assist with meeting the timeframe, SEVP hired new adjudicators to reduce the recertification processing time and plans to continue to hire additional adjudicators. SEVP also realigned the program's School Certification Unit into regional adjudication teams with assigned territories to allow the adjudicators to work with the same schools throughout the school's participation in the international student life cycle. Additionally, this means that adjudicators are familiar with state rules and regulations, which further reduces processing time.

For more information and resources on recertification, visit the Getting Started with SEVP Recertification page on Study in States or the Recertification page on ICE.gov/SEVP.

## Comments

To comment on this broadcast message, please email [SEVP@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:SEVP@ice.dhs.gov) with “Broadcast Message 2002-04 Comment” entered in the subject line.

## Disclaimer

This Broadcast Message is meant to provide information regarding a specific issue. It is not a rule or final action by SEVP and does not alter, create, or obviate any legal requirements. It is not intended to, does not, and may not be relied upon to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by any party in any administrative, civil or criminal matter.

