

International Student Admissions

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What is Severe Economic Hardship (SEH)?

If other employment opportunities are not available or are otherwise insufficient, an eligible F-1 student may request off-campus employment work authorization based upon severe economic hardship caused by unforeseen circumstances beyond the student's control. These circumstances may include loss of financial aid or on-campus employment without fault on the part of the student, and/or living costs, unexpected changes in the financial condition of the student's source of support, medical bills, or other substantial and unexpected expenses.

Who is eligible for SEH?

- The student has been in F-1 status for one full academic year
- The student is in good standing and is carrying a full course of study as defined by USCIS
- The student has demonstrated that acceptance of employment will not interfere with the student's carrying a full course of study
- The student has demonstrated that the employment is necessary to avoid severe economic hardship due to unforeseen circumstances beyond the student's control (as detailed above), and has demonstrated that on-campus employment is unavailable or otherwise insufficient to meet the needs that have arisen as a result of the unforeseen circumstances

How do I apply for SEH?

To apply for Severe Economic Hardship, please submit the following information to the Office of International Student Admissions:

1. Two (2) photographs (see USCIS requirements)
2. Form I-765 (downloadable from www.uscis.gov)
3. Letter explaining economic circumstances
4. Copies of all previously issued I-20s (front & back)
5. Copies of F-1 Visa Stamp, passport identification page, and I-94 (front & back)
6. Copies of supporting materials (e.g., bills, letters, articles, etc.)
7. Check in the sum required by USCIS written to U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services to cover the filing fee
8. Copy of SEVIS Form I-20, endorsed to reflect off-campus employment request (we will issue this to you after evaluating your application, items 1-7)