Students who are studying at Illinois State University on a visa other than F-1 may be eligible to change to F-1 visa status. A change of status to F-1 can be filed to USCIS with the assistance of the Office of International Studies.

To apply for a change of status, please bring the following to the OISP:

- Form I-539 ([www.uscis.gov/forms](http://www.uscis.gov/forms))
- Passport, visa, I-94 card, and any other documents verifying your current status (e.g. I-797, DS 2019, dependent I-20, etc.)
- A letter written to USCIS explaining why you are requesting to change to F-1 status, the letter should include:
  - Your reason(s) for changing to F-1 (never site employment as a reason)
  - A brief summary of your immigration history in the U.S. (whether you’ve changed status before)
- Evidence of Financial Support that is equal to or more than the amount that will appear on your I-20
- If you are currently a student: transcript. If you are new student, acceptance letter
- If changing from H-1B or L-1 status: letter verifying current employment and pay stubs for at least 3 months of employment
- If changing from a dependent status: copies of the principal visa holder’s documentation (passport, visa, I-94, any other immigration form- e.g. I-20, DS-2019, I-797).
  - Other copies proving primary visa holder’s good standing:
    - F-2: Need copies of F-1’s transcripts
    - H-4 or L-2: Letter verifying employment and pay stubs for the primary visa holder (H-1 or L1)
    - E-2: Proof of business ownership of the primary visa holder
  - Additional Copies:
    - Dependent spouses: marriage certificate
    - Dependent child: birth certificate

We will review your application and submit it to USCIS. Processing time can take up to three months or longer. We will contact you when the documents have been returned to our office. **Please note that applicants from B-2 and F-2 status may not start classes until the change of status application has been approved.**