INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDENT AND EXCHANGE VISITOR INFORMATION SYSTEM (SEVIS)
What is SEVIS?

- SEVIS is an internet based system that allows schools and the UCIS (formerly INS) to exchange data on the status of international students in the U.S.
- SEVIS is an acronym for Student and Exchange Visitor Information System.
How does SEVIS work?

- After Pfeiffer’s Admissions Office admits a student and the student meets all requirements for an I-20, the International Center enters the student’s information into a database located at the SEVIS website and prints an I-20 to send to the student.

- After receiving the I-20, the student then pays the SEVIS fee ($200) which can be paid online, by mail, or by Western Union. PRINT THE RECEIPT BEFORE LEAVING THE WEBSITE.

- After paying the fee, the student visits a U.S. embassy abroad, and the embassy confirms through SEVIS that the student has a valid I-20 document.
...and then what happens?

- When the student enters the U.S., the immigration officer reports the entry in SEVIS.
- Pfeiffer confirms the student’s enrollment in classes in SEVIS.
- Pfeiffer continues to report information throughout the student’s academic career.
What Information Must Pfeiffer Report to SEVIS?

- Whether a student enrolls each semester and remains full-time.
- Name and address changes.
- Students who graduates earlier than I-20 ending date.
- Approvals of extensions, transfers, and requests for employment authorization & reinstatements.
- Students who fail to maintain status.
What are some examples of “failure to maintain status?”

- Dropping from full-time to part-time enrollment without **prior** approval by the International Center.
- Attending a school other than one listed on the current I-20.
- Unauthorized employment.
- Failure to apply for a timely transfer or extension.
What happens if a student does not maintain status?

- The student must be reported in SEVIS.
- The student loses the privileges of F-1 status and becomes subject to possible deportation.
- Specific consequences may include denial of re-entry, inability to transfer, and denial of work requests.
It is YOUR Responsibility to Keep Valid Status

- Keep your PASSPORT valid at all times.
- Maintain your FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT during the Fall and Spring semesters.
- File a PROGRAM EXTENSION (before the ending date in item 5 of your I-20) if you need more time to complete the program of study.
Staying in Status (continued)

- **DO NOT** accept EMPLOYMENT unless the employment is officially authorized (such as on-campus employment for F-1 students).
- **DO NOT** TRAVEL outside the United States without the proper documents and signatures on those documents.
- Pay your **INCOME TAX**, if you are required to do so. Fill out forms appropriate to your tax status. NOTE: all international students must complete IRS Form 8843 even if they did not work.
Staying in Status (continued)

- If you are about to graduate or otherwise complete the activity for which you came to the United States and you want to remain in U.S. for further study or OPT, apply **BEFORE** you complete your program.

- Give **TRUTHFUL** answers to any questions a USCIS (immigration) officer might ask you about your student status.