

YOUR WORKING CHECKLIST

F-2 family members: individual records connected to an F-1 student

What does an F-2 family member need to distinguish from the F-1 student's record?

An F-2 family journey is tied to the principal student but still has individual identity, relationship, school and immigration records. The Department of State says accompanying family members receive individual I-20s. The student's acceptance or approval should not be treated as every relative's own decision.

Check the boxes on screen or by hand. Use the notes area for records to find and questions to ask.

Your preparation checklist

- ☐ Identify the school and relevant student document.
- ☐ Preserve the official record connecting the dependent to the principal.
- ☐ Keep the person's passport and prior admission information separately.
- ☐ Describe the dependent's own study or employment plans rather than borrowing the student's permissions.

Notes and questions to follow up

Source links and current instructions

Sources checked October 25, 2026. Follow current instructions at the linked institution.

U.S. Department of State: Student visa: school and category distinctions

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study/student-visa.html>

DHS Study in the States: Maintaining student status

<https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students/maintaining-status>

USCIS: Changing nonimmigrant status: approval and activity distinction

<https://www.uscis.gov/visit-the-united-states/change-my-nonimmigrant-status>

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<https://immigrantinsider.com/immigration-paths/student/f2-dependents/>

General information

This free organizer is not a government form and does not submit an application, establish eligibility, preserve a deadline or replace individual legal advice. Government filing fees and professional services are separate.