

YOUR WORKING CHECKLIST

A pending request: what the receipt does and does not decide

Does a pending immigration request authorize the activity I asked for?

A pending request is not an approval of the benefit or activity requested. A receipt, an existing classification, an employment authorization and a travel document answer different questions. USCIS's change-of-status guidance specifically warns against starting a disallowed new activity before approval; other pending-case effects need their own current category-specific rule.

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 exact request and person on the receipt.
- ☐ List the proposed activity that needs authority now.
- ☐ Keep the existing classification or authorization record available.
- ☐ Read later notices for the action actually decided.
- ☐ Separate stay, work and travel questions.
- ☐ Use a current category-specific rule before relying on a pending-case effect.

Notes and questions to follow up

Source links and current instructions

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

USCIS: Changing nonimmigrant status: approval and activity distinction
<https://www.uscis.gov/visit-the-united-states/change-my-nonimmigrant-status>

USCIS: I-765: Employment Authorization
<https://www.uscis.gov/i-765>

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Source links (continued)

USCIS: Policy Manual: extension of stay and change of status

<https://www.uscis.gov/policy-manual/volume-2-part-a-chapter-4>

USCIS: Changing to F or M student status: school, I-20 and approval

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-in-the-united-states/students-and-exchange-visitors/students-and-employment/changing-to-a-nonimmigrant-f-or-m-student-status>

Immigrant Insider: Editorial policy and verification status

<https://immigrantinsider.com/editorial-policy/>

Return to the complete guide

<https://immigrantinsider.com/status/pending-request/>

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.