

Navigating Federal, State, and Institutional Policies During COVID-19

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FIU Institutional Graduate Student Profile

- **Carnegie Classification:** Doctoral University: Very High Research Activity (R1)
- **Graduate Enrollment:** 8,999
 - PhD: 3,003
 - Master's: 5,996
 - International: 1,334
 - 19% of all PhD students
 - 13% of all Master's students
 - 74% of all Engineering PhD students
 - 36% of all Engineering Master's students
- **Annual Degrees:** 215 PhDs; 433 doctoral; 3,363 Master's
- **Programs:** 34 PhDs; 106 Master's

Issues Impacting International Students

1. Testing access for GRE and TOEFL
2. Visas for re-entry to U.S. and entry for new students
3. Restrictions of use of CARES Act funds for international students
4. Student & Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) modifications regarding online classes for international students:
 - Students attending schools entirely online for the Fall semester may *NOT* take a full online course load and remain in the U.S.

Testing Access & Visas

- Universities currently using GRE have either placed GRE requirements on temporary hold or eliminated.
- Alternatives to TOEFL have been used (e.g., Duolingo).
- Visas for re-entry to U.S. created challenges for new international students. Some solutions:
 - Deferred admission to Fall 2021
 - Remote Fall 2020, with tuition coverage, but no assistantship

CARES Act Restrictions on International Students

- CARES Act does not allow use of funds for international students.
- COVID-19-related remote work and restrictions on research has at least caused delays in progress toward degrees.
- How can universities support current international students given these circumstances:
 - Use non-CARES Act funding to support international students.
 - Shift some resources to international students by reducing new overall enrollment.

New SEVP Online Restrictions on International Students

- Universities still interpreting implications of new regulation.
- Issues to consider:
 - Clear definition of in-person courses for Fall term.
 - Definition of dissertation and independent study as in-person
 - New students not in U.S. for Fall term may be fully online and receive tuition support.
 - Plans for possible shift from in-person to online in the middle of Fall term