F-2 Dependents

Individuals on an F-2 visa or status are dependents of F-1 students. To qualify as an F-2 dependent, the dependent must be the spouse (married partner) of the F-1 student, or unmarried minor child (under the age of 21) of the F-1 student.

F-1 students may bring their dependent(s) when they first enter the U.S., or at a later time during a student's program.

Adding an F-2 Dependent

The F-1 student must show an additional \$6,000 in proof of funding for the first dependent, and an additional \$3,000 in proof of funding for any dependents thereafter to be eligible to receive I-20s for the F-2 dependent(s).

For example, an F-1 student with one F-2 dependent must show at least \$34,550 (\$28,550 minimum requirement + \$6,000). An F-1 student with two F-2 dependents must show at least \$37,550, and so on.

The passport of the F-2 dependent(s) as well as information about the relationship (spouse or child) to the F-1 student is required.

Once the F-1 applicant has been accepted to Saint Paul College, an I-20 will be issued for the F-1 student, as well as I-20s for their F-2 dependent(s).

The F-1 student must sign their own I-20, as well as the I-20s for their F-2 dependent(s).

The F-2 dependent will then use the F-2 I-20 to either apply for the F-2 visa, or to USCIS for a change of status to F-2 status (if the dependent is already in the U.S. under a different visa/status).

Rules and Regulations for F-2 Dependents

- F-2 dependents are *not* eligible to work in the U.S. and cannot obtain a social security number (SSN). There is **zero** option for work authorization while on F-2 status.
- F-2 dependent children may attend K-12 public school while in the U.S.
- F-2 dependents may engage in study at an SEVP-certified school (including Saint Paul College), but must be enrolled *less than* full-time (this is 11 credit hours or less at Saint Paul College).

F-2 dependent(s) maintain legal presence in the U.S. as long as the F-1 student maintains their F-1 legal status. If the F-1 student departs the U.S. permanently, the F-2 dependent(s) must also depart.

Updated: January 2025



international@saintpaul.edu | 651.403.4470 | Room 4295

Saint Paul College's Mission: Grounded in equity and inclusion, Saint Paul College educates and empowers students to lead purposeful lives and discover rewarding careers. This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by contacting the Director of Access & Disability Resources at 651.350.3008 or AccessResources@saintpaul.edu. Saint Paul College is an Equal Opportunity employer and educator and a member of Minnesota State.