

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.

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