



Information for F and M Visa Holders Applying for Benefits: Immigration Status Verification using **SAVE**

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), manages the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program. SAVE is an information service for authorized federal, state and local benefit-granting agencies. These agencies use SAVE to confirm their applicants' immigration status as part of determining eligibility for benefits. Among the agencies that use SAVE are the Social Security Administration and many state driver's licensing agencies. The [SAVE Agency Search Tool](#) lets you see which agencies use SAVE.

A [SAVE Program Information Sheet](#) is available in English and [17 other languages](#).

Common Questions and Answers

How do I get a Social Security Number (SSN)?

Visit the Social Security website for information on how to [apply for an SSN](#).

If I am a student visa holder, how long should I wait to apply for a SSN after arriving in the U.S.?

The DHS Student and Exchange Visitor Program [recommends waiting at least 10 calendar days after arriving in the U.S. to apply for a SSN](#).

How do I get a driver's license or a state identification document?

Check with your local or state licensing office.

If you are a student visa holder, DHS has [guidance for obtaining a driver's license](#) on its [Study in the States](#) website.

If I am a student visa holder, how long should I wait to apply for a driver's license or state identification after arriving in the U.S.?

The DHS Student and Exchange Visitor Program [recommends waiting at least 10 calendar days after arriving in the U.S. to apply for a driver's license or I.D.](#)

If there is a mistake in my immigration record, how do I correct it?

Review SAVE's [guidance on how to correct your immigration records](#).

How do I check the status of my SAVE immigration status verification case?

You can use [SAVE CaseCheck](#).

What if I am denied a benefit to which I feel I am entitled?

If you are a student visa holder, contact your Designated School Official or Responsible Officer. If the SAVE Program cannot confirm your immigration status after completion of the verification process, you will be given an opportunity to correct your immigration record and reapply for the benefit and/or appeal the benefit-granting agency's denial of the benefit.

Why couldn't the SAVE-using agency immediately grant me a benefit?

SAVE only provides immigration status information to the agency for the purpose of determining whether you meet their eligibility requirements. It is the responsibility of the agency to follow the SAVE verification process and determine your eligibility for the benefit.

Is there anything I can do before applying for a benefit to make sure I don't have problems?

SAVE [recommends that you ensure that your immigration records are correct](#) and that you present your most recently issued immigration documents to the benefit-granting agency. [This information is available in 17 other languages](#).

Where can I find more information?

- SAVE: uscis.gov/save
- Social Security Administration: ssa.gov
- Student and Exchange Visitor Program: ice.gov/sevis

