



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

Policy Manual

Current as of October 10, 2024

The USCIS Policy Manual is the agency's centralized online repository for USCIS' immigration policies. The USCIS Policy Manual will ultimately replace the Adjudicator's Field Manual (AFM), the USCIS Immigration Policy Memoranda site, and other policy repositories.

About the Policy Manual

The USCIS Policy Manual is the agency's centralized online repository for USCIS' immigration policies. The Policy Manual is replacing the Adjudicator's Field Manual (AFM), the USCIS Immigration Policy Memoranda site, and other USCIS policy repositories. The Policy Manual contains separate volumes pertaining to different areas of immigration benefits administered by the agency, such as citizenship and naturalization, adjustment of status, and nonimmigrants. The content is organized into different volumes, parts, and chapters.

The Policy Manual provides transparency of immigration policies and furthers consistency, quality, and efficiency consistent with the USCIS mission. The Policy Manual provides all the latest policy updates; an expanded table of contents; keyword search function; and links to the Immigration and Nationality Act and Code of Federal Regulations, as well as public use forms. The Policy Manual contains tables and charts to facilitate understanding of complex topics. The Policy Manual also contains all historical policy updates.

The Policy Manual contains the official policies of USCIS and assists immigration officers in rendering decisions. The Policy Manual is to be followed by all USCIS officers in the performance of their duties but it does not remove their discretion in making adjudicatory

decisions. The Policy Manual does not create any substantive or procedural right or benefit that is legally enforceable by any party against the United States or its agencies or officers or any other person.

How to use the USCIS Policy Manual website (PDF, 2.99 MB).

Adjudicator's Field Manual Transition

USCIS is retiring its Adjudicator's Field Manual (AFM), a collection of our immigration policies and procedures. We are working to update and incorporate all AFM content into the USCIS Policy Manual. Until then, we have moved any remaining AFM content in PDF format to its corresponding Policy Manual Part. To the extent that a provision in the Policy Manual conflicts with remaining AFM content or Policy Memoranda, the updated information in the Policy Manual prevails. If you have questions or concerns about any discrepancies among these resources, contact PolicyFeedback@uscis.dhs.gov.

To find remaining AFM content, see the crosswalk (PDF, 322.9 KB) between the AFM and the Policy Manual.

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POLICY ALERT - International Entrepreneur Parole Threshold Adjustments

October 10, 2024

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is issuing policy guidance in the USCIS Policy Manual to reflect the recently published final rule to codify the automatic adjustment of the investment, award, grant, and revenue thresholds for international entrepreneur parole. The guidance also clarifies the process for submitting biometrics for applicants who reside outside the United States.

[Read More](#)

Affected Sections

3 USCIS-PM G.1 - Chapter 1 - Purpose and Background

3 USCIS-PM G.2 - Chapter 2 - Requirements for Consideration

3 USCIS-PM G.4 - Chapter 4 - Adjudication

3 USCIS-PM G.5 - Chapter 5 - Additional Periods of Parole

POLICY ALERT - Extraordinary Ability Criteria Clarification

October 02, 2024

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is issuing policy guidance in the USCIS Policy Manual to further clarify how USCIS evaluates evidence to determine eligibility for immigrant classification as a person of extraordinary ability.

[Read More](#)

Affected Sections

6 USCIS-PM F.2 - Chapter 2 - Extraordinary Ability

POLICY ALERT - Age Calculation Under the Child Status Protection Act

September 25, 2024

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is issuing policy guidance in the USCIS Policy Manual to clarify how to calculate the Child Status Protection Act (CSPA) age for a noncitizen who demonstrates extraordinary circumstances that may excuse the sought to acquire requirement under the CSPA.

[Read More](#)

Affected Sections

7 USCIS-PM A.7 - Chapter 7 - Child Status Protection Act

Technical Update - Extension Application Filing Period for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Optional Practical Training

September 25, 2024

This technical update to Volume 2, Nonimmigrants, clarifies that an F-1 student may apply for a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Optional Practical Training (OPT) extension no later than 60 days after a designated school official's recommendation in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS). This technical update aligns the guidance with the regulations.

Affected Sections

2 USCIS-PM F.5 - Chapter 5 - Practical Training

POLICY ALERT - Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Optional Practical Training

August 27, 2024

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is updating policy guidance in the USCIS Policy Manual regarding when students may be eligible for optional practical training (OPT) for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields; as well as clarifying guidance concerning online study, school transfers, the grace period, and study abroad.

[Read More](#)

Affected Sections

2 USCIS-PM F.3 - Chapter 3 - Courses and Enrollment, Full Course of Study, and Reduced Course Load

2 USCIS-PM F.4 - Chapter 4 - School Transfer

2 USCIS-PM F.5 - Chapter 5 - Practical Training

2 USCIS-PM F.7 - Chapter 7 - Absences From the United States