

COMPLIANCE NEWSLETTER

JUDGE'S ORDER DELAYS NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENT VISA LIMITS

On September 14, A U.S. Federal District Court blocked a proposed Department of Homeland Security (DHS) rule that sought to impose a fixed, four-year limit on International Student visas.

The proposed rule aimed to eliminate the duration of status system that allows F-1 and J-1 holders to stay in the U.S. as long as they maintain valid student status and make academic progress.

The DHS proposed capping student visas at four years. Those requiring more time to complete their degree, including doctoral students, would have to apply for an extension and pay a \$400 fee.

The federal judge's ruling found that the policy lacked adequate justification and could cause significant disruptions to higher education institutions, academic research, and the economy.

For now, the duration of status framework remains in effect nationwide. However, the Federal Administration may appeal this ruling, so international students and faculty should remain attentive to future developments.

READ MORE:

Read about the judicial injunction and responses to the proposed visit limits:

- [Judge Blocks Controversial International Student Restrictions](#)

Read CHEA's response to the ED's proposed accreditation rules:

- [CHEA Statement on Proposed AIM Accreditation Regulations](#)

Read about the College's COI reporting process

- [Conflict of Interest | Office of the Vice President for Administration | Teachers College](#)

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PROPOSES ACCREDITATION OVERHAUL

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) proposed new regulations overhauling higher education accreditation. The proposed rules (1) require accreditors to evaluate colleges using quantitative student outcome metrics like graduate earnings and completion rates; (2) prohibit DEI mandates while requiring policies that promote viewpoint diversity; and (3) lower barriers for new accrediting bodies to enter the market. However, organizations such as the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) are challenging the proposal, warning that it threatens academic freedom and exceeds statutory authority. The new rules are scheduled to take effect in July 2027.

TC POLICY & RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS

(CLICK ON A RESOURCE TITLE TO LEARN MORE)

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS (OISS)

OISS serves as Teachers College's official resource for international students, providing guidance on immigration, visa maintenance, and travel compliance.

INSTITUTIONAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (COI) POLICY

The COI policy sets standards to identify and manage conflicts of interest, ensuring relationships with external entities do not compromise the College's mission and decision-making integrity.

The 2026 COI reporting period runs from September 23 to October 26. Employees must report potential COIs via Cayuse.