



*Representing UW-Madison Faculty.
Strengthening Wisconsin.*

PROFS Statement on ICE Policy Guidelines on Student Visas

On Monday, July 6th, the United States Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) revised its guidance on the Student and Exchange Visitor Program, requiring any international students taking exclusively on-line courses at universities in the United States to either return to their home countries or to remain in those countries. This revision would affect nearly 6,000 UW-Madison students.

PROFS finds these revisions to ICE visa policy to be unnecessary and, frankly, punitive. We agree with those who have described the policy as part of a strategy to compel American institutions of higher education to move to in-person instruction at a time when the Coronavirus pandemic makes face-to-face interactions dangerous to the health of many in our community. And we are also concerned that the reduction in flexibility in ICE's visa policy for F-1 visa students is part of a broader strategy of closing the United States to non-US citizens to work and study here.

PROFS urges our elected representatives in Congress, and UW System administration and its Board of Regents to push ICE to reverse its recently-released guidance so that the University of Wisconsin can remain a destination for the world's best and brightest students.

PROFS also encourages UW System to support our international students by filing an amicus brief in support of the lawsuit filed Wednesday, July 8th by Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to block the Trump Administration's new guidelines.

July 10, 2020