Individuals who hold their own primary visa status may be eligible to change to F-2 visa status if married to a person in valid F-1 status, or a child under the age of 21 who has a parent in valid F-1 status. A change of status to F-2 can be filed to the USCIS with the assistance of the UT International Office.

To apply for a Change of Status, please bring the following to the International Office:

- **Form I-539**
- Passport, visa, Form I-94 and any other documents verifying your current status (e.g. I-797, DS-2019, I-20, EAD cards, SEVIS Fee receipt)
- A letter written to USCIS explaining why you are requesting a change to F-2 status (e.g. that you will soon complete your program and wish to stay in the U.S. to accompany your F-1 spouse, or that you have a work visa status and wish to change to a dependent of your spouse’s). The letter should include your brief immigration history (how you originally came to the US and whether you have changed status before).
- Evidence of financial support that is equal to or more than the amount that will appear on the primary visa holder’s (F-1) I-20. Examples include a student’s bank statement, a sponsor’s bank statement accompanied by a letter from the sponsor accepting financial responsibility for the student, a letter of appointment (for TA’s, GA’s, etc.) detailing the financial award, or a combination of any of the above.
- If you are currently a student, obtain a transcript or enrollment letter.
- If changing from H-1B or L-1 status, obtain a letter verifying current employment and paystubs for the last 3 months of employment.
- You will also need copies of the principal visa holder’s F-1 documentation including passport, visa, Form I-94 and any other type of immigration form (e.g. I-20, DS-2019, I-797, etc.). Additional documents that may be required include marriage certificate (if dependent spouse) or birth certificate (if dependent child) as well as:
  - Transcript of F-1 student
- Receipt showing payment of the SEVIS Fee
- Check or money order made out to “Department of Homeland Security” for $290.00.
- Form I-20 (provided by ISSS).

We will review your application and then you will submit it to USCIS. Processing time can take to 2 - 5 months. We will contact you when the documents have been returned to our office. Please note that applicants from H1-B or L-1 status are advised to terminate current employment only after the change of status application has been receipted by USCIS and that all work must end by the F-2 approval date.
Filing a Change of Status to F-2 through ELIS (Electronic Immigration System)

- Access ELIS and create your account
- Follow instructions to input data based on your Form I-539 draft. Upload all supporting documents listed on the front side of this handout and pay I-539 filing fee via electronic check or credit card at the end of the ELIS process. The only supporting document that you do not have to upload is the Form I-539 (ELIS integrates Form I-539 into the application).
- Processing time through ELIS can be slightly faster than submitting a paper-version Change of Status application (possibly 1-2 weeks faster); however, be prepared to wait 2 - 5 months.
- Provide the ISSS with a copy of your ELIS Change of Status application and the ELIS email confirmation reflecting your receipt number, which you will receive immediately upon submitting your application. Please email this to the international student advisor who assisted you.

***REMEMBER: Use the address of the International Office for your mailing address in ELIS***