Statement of Understanding for International Students attending Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne

What is SEVIS?

SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) is a web-based system for collecting, managing, and reporting information on foreign students, exchange visitors, and their dependents temporarily in the U.S. in a nonimmigrant status. CTS (Concordia Theological Seminary’s) DSO (Designated School Official) uses SEVIS to register you for classes every term. The Department of Homeland Security receives instantaneous information on schools, exchange visitor programs, students, and exchange visitors through SEVIS. SEVP (Student and Exchange Visitor Program) manages SEVIS and provides policy support and program administration for F, M, and J status visa holders.

Funding

A prospective foreign student is required to demonstrate Proof of Availability of Funds when he applies for a F-1 Student Visa in or outside of the United States. USCIS (United States Citizenship & Immigration Services) or an Officer at the local US Embassy need to be sure that the student can live in the US and pay their tuition without working, which is permitted for foreign students only under rare circumstances. Proof of Availability of Funds can be demonstrated either by them directly, or through sponsorship.

To remain compliant with federal standards, all prospective foreign student donors and current student donors are required to complete an I-134 form to show proof of funding.

Section 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act) bars the admission into the United States any person who, in the opinion of the U.S. Department of State officer adjudicating a visa application, a Department of Homeland Security officer, or an immigration judge adjudicating an application for admission, is likely at any time to become a public charge.

The following is a list of the standard requirements and conditions for Proof of Funds:

- All financial support documents must be dated within 6 months of the intended program start date or date of extension request.
- All financial support documents must be in English, or with an official translation into English from the bank attached.
- All bank statements and bank letters must be on bank letterhead and include the name of the account holder, account number, and specific amount of funds.
The name of the sponsor on the affidavit of support must match the name of the account holder on the bank statement or bank letter.

All funds must be readily accessible and liquid, such as savings accounts and checking accounts. Investments with fluctuating values are generally not recommended as viable proof of funds.

A F-1 student may not act as a sponsor for a fellow F-1 student.

If you are supported by income from a family business, documentation must include either an official tax record showing annual business income OR accountant certification of annual business income (revenue minus expenses).

There are seven types of sponsorship that a F-1 student can have:

- **Initial Entry – US Sponsor**
  - Affidavit of Support (Notarized)
  - Guarantee letter of support
- **Initial Entry – Sponsor Abroad**
  - Guarantee letter of support - Wire and current currency information
- **Initial Entry – Self Sponsor**
  - Guarantee letter of support
  - Recent bank statement with appropriate amount of funds for duration of I-20

- **Change of Status – US Sponsor**
  - Affidavit of Support (Notarized)
  - Guarantee letter of support

- **Change of Status – Sponsor Abroad**
  - Guarantee letter of support - Wire and current currency information

- **Change of Status – Self Sponsor**
  - Guarantee letter of support
  - Recent bank statement with appropriate amount of funds for duration of I-20

- **Transfer-In – Self Sponsor, US Sponsor, or Sponsor Abroad**
  - Guarantee letter of support - Wire and current currency information
  - Affidavit of Support (Notarized)
  - Recent bank statement with appropriate amount of funds for duration of I-20

The U.S. Embassy/Consulate accepts only original or certified true photocopies of financial documentation from each source of funding listed on the Certificate of Finances and Affidavit of Sponsorship. Concordia Theological Seminary is required to review all financial documentation before issuing the Form I-20.

If a student’s total expenses for the quarter exceed his/her total funding, the student cannot be registered in SEVIS. If the student’s funding decreases and becomes less than expenses during the academic year, his/her record will be updated in SEVIS to reflect the change. The amount that is due for the current quarter will have to be paid in full before a student is allowed to begin the next
quarter. If funding is not secured within 30 days of the CTS “Fee Payment Due” date for that quarter, the student will be terminated by the PDSO/DSO. The student can locate the “Fee Payment Due” date on the CTS website, http://www.ctsfw.edu/Page.aspx?pid=519, or contact the Registrar 260-452-2153. If needed, a payment plan can be established by contacting the V.P. of Business Affairs at 260-452-2106. If the balance due is not paid in full before the start of the next quarter, the PDSO/DSO will terminate the student and ask them to return to their country of origin.

Please confirm that you understand the information presented here and agree to comply with SEVIS regulations by affixing your signature and date below.

Name______________________________________________________Date_____________