If an international student fails to maintain their student status, there are two options for regaining student status: (1) applying for reinstatement OR (2) entering the U.S. with a new I-20. It is essential to discuss the two options with an International Student Advisor as soon as possible.

(1) Applying for Reinstatement
The student must:

- Provide the International Student Advisor with all the documents necessary to issue a new I-20 including, if necessary, updated financial support documents.
- Write a letter of explanation to USCIS identifying the status violation, explaining the reason for the violation, stating that he/she is pursuing or intending to pursue a full course of study, explaining the effect on the student of failure to receive reinstatement, and specifically requesting to be reinstated.
- Complete and sign form I-539, Application to Extend/Change Non-Immigrant Status, writing “Reinstatement to F-1 Status” in Part 2, Item 1.
- Write a check to: Department of Homeland Security for ($300) the fee for form I-539.

The International Student Advisor (DSO) will enter the request in SEVIS and print a new I-20 for the student which includes the notation “reinstatement requested”. Both the student and DSO sign the new I-20. All materials above, as well as any supporting documents, the financial records used to receive the new I-20, and the student’s I-94 must be submitted to the US Citizenship and Immigration Service. If reinstatement is granted, the DSO will be notified and will prepare a new I-20 for the student, showing that the student is in status.

If the reinstatement is denied, there is no appeal process. As of the date of the denial, the student’s visa will be automatically cancelled, the student will be permanently limited to applying for U.S. visas in his or her country of citizenship or permanent residence, and the student will be required to leave the U.S. immediately. If the student remains for more than 180 days beyond that point, he or she will not be allowed to re-enter the U.S. for three years. If the student remains in the U.S. more than 1 year beyond the denial date, he or she will not be allowed to re-enter the U.S. for 10 years.

(2) Entering the U.S. on a New I-20
A student also has the option of leaving the U.S. and re-entering with a new I-20 that has been created by the International Student Advisor. In this case, the student must submit all necessary documents for creation of a new I-20, including financial documentation. The student must then leave the country with the old I-20 and return on the new I-20.

In this case, if the student’s visa is expired, the student will need to apply for a new visa. Also, the student will be subject to the same rules as any new entrant such as:

- The student may enter no earlier than 30 days before the start of the school term
- The student may not work prior to the program start date on the new I-20
- The student will not be able to obtain authorization for off-campus work for one academic year