

## Maintaining Student Status for F-1 Visa Holders



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**International Students are accountable for maintaining their ‘student status’ and knowing their responsibilities. Students who fail to do so may be subject to immediate deportation and may have difficulty getting a visa to enter the U.S. in the future. Students are encouraged to read page 2 of their I-20.**

### **STUDENTS MAY FALL OUT OF STATUS BY:**

- Failure to report to the International Student Advisors within the first 15 days of each semester, so that records in SEVIS can be updated to show enrollment
- When first entering the U.S. with a new I-20, attending a school other than the one named on the I-20 and visa
- Taking less than a full course load without prior authorization (12 units minimum for undergraduates and 8 units minimum for graduates)
- Not making normal progress towards program completion/graduation
- Failure to apply for an extension before the program end date on the I-20 (item # 5), if the program is not completed
- Failure to apply for change of level or transfer of schools
- Exceeding the grace periods for presence in the United States: arriving more than 30 days before the program start date, or staying longer than 60 days after program completion or completion of OPT, or 15 days after authorized early withdrawal
- Failure to report a change of address to the International Student Advisors within 10 days
- Conviction for certain criminal activities
- Failure to follow any special Department of Homeland Security requirements such as Special Registration
- Working on campus for more than 20 hours a week during the school term
- Working off campus for more hours than authorized
- Failure to report company name and address, or any periods of unemployment to the International Student Advisors during OPT
- Exceeding 90 days, in total, of unemployment during OPT (or 120 days if granted a STEM extension)
- Working without authorization

### **REGAINING STUDENT STATUS**

There are two options for regaining student status: applying for reinstatement or entering the U.S. with a new I-20. It is essential to discuss the requirements and consequences of these two options with an International Student Advisor as soon as possible.