

# Falling out-of-status & Reinstatement to F-1 Status

Created by Tammy J. Silver Copyright 2005

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- ## Vocabulary
- To be “in-status”
    - To obey the laws related to or about F-1 students
  - To be “out-of-status”
    - To violate the laws related to or about F-1 students
  - Reinstatement
    - To give back or restore status (only the immigration authorities can do this)
  - Deportation
    - To legally require an alien to leave the country

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## Common Violations of F-1 Status

| <u>Violation</u>           | <u>Reinstatement Possibility</u>   |
|----------------------------|--|
| Expired I-20               | Student may try to get reinstated or student may have to leave the country and be readmitted to be in status |
| Below 12 credits           | Student may try to get reinstated or student may have to leave the country and be readmitted to be in status |
| Not Making Normal Progress | Student may try to get reinstated or student may have to leave the country and be readmitted to be in status |
| Working Illegally          | Deportation  |

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## Your GPA & Your Status

- Students who fail a class from time to time will not be considered out-of-status.
- Students are expected to maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0
- Students falling below a cumulative GPA of 2.0 are placed on academic probation
- Students who are already on academic probation and whose semester and cumulative GPA falls below 2.0 will be suspended.

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## Exceptions for Falling Below 12 Credits

- A medical condition that is documented by a licensed medical doctor for a period of **LESS** than 12 months
- Needing less than 12 credits to graduate
- **ALL EXCEPTIONS MUST BE PRE-APPROVED AND SENT TO SEVIS BY YOUR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADVISOR**

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## Reduced Course Load (RCL)

- Students must have a **valid medical or academic** reason, and
- **MUST** fill out an application for an RCL and submit it to an advisor for approval
- Students who are **PRE**-approved will receive a new I-20 with RCL authorization, and
- May take below 12 credits without affecting their status
- **Students eligible for an RCL who do not receive pre-approval will be out-of-status for not maintaining 12 credits.**

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### Falling Below 12 credits

- You will become out of status if you take less than 12 credits because of a medical condition for more than 12 months.

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### Receiving a "W"

- You may be out of status if you receive one or more "W"s that bring your total credits below 12.

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### Administrative Withdrawals

- If the "W" is the result of an administrative withdrawal, the International Center staff will find out from the instructor directly if you attended the class or not.
- If the instructor indicates that you did not attend, you will be out-of-status.

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## Working Illegally

- If you are caught working illegally, you will be deported and it will be extremely difficult to get another visa in the future.

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### 6 Examples of Working Illegally

1. Working on-campus more than 20 hours per week during the Spring & Fall semesters.
2. Working on-campus when you're not academically eligible (that is, if you are suspended)
3. Working (on or off-campus) while you're not taking a full course of study (unless authorized) or out-of-status.

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### 6 Examples of Working Illegally

4. **Working off-campus without a valid work permit.**
5. Working off-campus in a field that is not your field of study, unless approved by CIS.
6. Working off-campus more hours per week than you are authorized.

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## Reinstatement TO F-1 Status

- Reinstatement is an application process to the USCIS. If an officer approves the application, the student will regain F-1 status as if there were never any violation.

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## Reinstatement Process

1. Meet with an International Student Advisor to receive information about preparing your application.
2. Return to the International Center with completed application. Meet with an International Student Advisor to review your documents.
3. Submit your application to the local USCIS office.

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## After Applying for Reinstatement

- You must bring to the International Center:
  1. A copy of the receipt showing that you paid for the reinstatement application
  2. The approved reinstatement documents (I-20 and I-94 stamped and signed)
  3. **You will receive a new I-20 after you are reinstated**

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### Time Limitation

Students have 5 months from the day they are reported out-of-status to be reinstated.

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