Violation of F-1 Visa Status—Questions and Answers

How is it possible to lose F-1 status?

You can lose your F-1 status by doing any of the following:

- Failing to maintain full-time registration (12 cr. undergraduates and law school students, 9 cr. graduate students) every semester; no more than **one on-line course** is allowed each semester; if you have only one course to complete your program, it **cannot** be an on-line course
- Failing to obtain official authorization from ISSC for **any** changes in your enrollment
- Failing to earn passing grades in your courses (average of C (2.00 GPA) or better for undergraduates and law students; B or better *in each course* for graduate students);
- Failing to make sufficient academic progress towards completing your program or degree
- Failing to keep your passport valid
- Failing to keep your I-20 paperwork valid; this means having your I-20 end date in the future so that it covers either a program of study in which you are currently enrolled or approved Post-Completion Optional Practical Training (OPT)
- Failing to accept **only** authorized employment, and for a maximum of 20 hours a week while enrolled in classes
- Failing to report **immediately** if you change your address – or within 10 days at the **latest –** even in the summer
- Failing to report **immediately** if you change your name
- Receiving any official dismissal from the University
- Any other circumstances that may apply; these will be reviewed and decided on a case-by-case basis

> **Please Note:** Receiving a dismissal from the University for *any* reason may make you ineligible for reinstatement. Please consult with the ISSC *before* proceeding.

What are the consequences of being out of status?

Students who are out of status are not eligible for any of the benefits of F-1 status, including permission to work or eligibility for practical training. You no longer have a legal status to stay in the U.S., which can cause a variety of risks and issues for you.

How can I get back into valid F-1 status?

You may apply for reinstatement using the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) ELIS system. Complete the Reinstatement Application and meet with an ISSC advisor.

How long will the USCIS take to adjudicate my reinstatement request?

Currently there is no way to know.

Am I allowed to work while my application is being processed in ELIS?

No. Employment is a benefit of valid F-1 visa status.