

This information sheet outlines the consequences and available options for students with a terminated I-20. You are encouraged to meet with a Designated School Official (DSO) to discuss any questions you may have.

**Consequences of a terminated I-20:**

- Upon termination, you will need to decide what option to pursue. Depending on your choice, you may need to leave the country within 15 days of your termination.
- You will not be able to reenter the United States with a terminated I-20.
- All working privileges are terminated. Any type of employment after the stated termination date is considered illegal. Employers may be subject to severe consequences for employing an illegal worker.
- All dependents will lose their F-2 status.

**Available options after the termination of an I-20:**

1. Return to your home country within 15 days of the termination date
2. Return to your home country within 15 days of the termination and apply for a new program of study; this will require applying for a new student visa (paying I-901 fee, sitting through a visa interview, obtaining a new I-20 from a new program, etc.)
3. Work with an SUU DSO to apply for reinstatement\*
  - a. This option is not available for students who have been suspended, dismissed or expelled.
4. Transfer to a new program and work with your new program's DSO through the reinstatement process\*
  - a. Programs are not required to accept students into their program(s) who are currently in a terminated status.

**\*Please Note:** The reinstatement process is not guaranteed. The final approval/denial is made by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) main office.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What leads to the termination of an I-20?**

Failure to maintain status, which includes:

- Unauthorized drop below minimum course load; 12 for undergraduates, 9 for graduates.
- Unauthorized employment
- Suspension/Dismissal from program of study
- Criminal conviction
- Failure to check-in within 60 days of your arrival
- Unauthorized withdrawal (UW)
- Absent from the United States for longer than 5 months

### **What is required for reinstatement?** (Please note: reinstatement is not guaranteed.)

- Until USCIS has received your application for reinstatement, you are considered out-of-status and illegally present in the United States.
- Reinstatement requests must be made within 5 months of the termination date listed on the top of this document.
- Requests for reinstatements are decided by USCIS. An I-539 application needs to be prepared and sent to the appropriate USCIS location. (Instructions for completing the I-539 can be found on: <http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/i-539instr.pdf>)

### **What do I need to do while my reinstatement request is pending?**

- Maintain a full course load and abide by all other requirements for maintaining active status
  - o If your request is not approved by USCIS, you are still expected to cover the incurred costs of your program.

### **Can I leave the United States while my application for reinstatement is pending?**

- No, Leaving the United States is considered an abandonment of your application.

### **What happens if I do not leave the country immediately?**

- Extended stays after your termination may impact your ability to receive a US visa for later travel. All notes regarding your termination are recorded in SEVIS, and that information is used by immigration officials when you sit for a new visa.