



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

SUPPORT

TIPS FOR DEANS, DIRECTORS, & FACULTY

If a student is on a visa sponsored by an institution and has questions about immigration status, please don't hesitate to refer them to the appropriate support:

- Contact the Designated School Official (DSO) or the institution's international student office with questions
- Use an individualized approach to student questions – have them connect directly with the DSO
- Continue to track impacts on international students, as guidance may change

STUDENTS:

Understand Current Status

Maintain Status

- **Full Course Load:** Ensure students are enrolled full-time each academic term, unless formally authorized to do otherwise.
- **Program Updates:** Any updates to your major, academic level, or program must be reported.
- **SEVIS Accuracy:** Ensure the SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) records are current and accurate. Work closely with your school's Designated School Official (DSO).

Work Authorization

- **On-Campus Employment:** Permitted up to 20 hours per week during academic terms, and up to 40 hours per week during vacation term or in-between term breaks.
- **CPT (Curricular Practical Training):** Must be authorized in advance and directly related to your field of study.
- **OPT (Optional Practical Training):** Requires an application through USCIS, and a recommendation from DSO.
- **Unauthorized Employment:** Engaging in work without proper authorization is a serious violation of your status and should be avoided at all costs.

STUDENTS:

Situational Awareness

Travel Guidance

- Ensure students have a valid **travel signature** on their Form I-20 before leaving the U.S.
- Always carry a **valid passport, current I-94 record, visa, and Form I-20** when traveling.
- Discuss any potential re-entry risks, especially if they've had issues or policy changes arise.

Status Violations and Reinstatement

- Explain what constitutes a violation (e.g., dropping below full-time, unauthorized work).
- If the student's status is compromised, promptly work with the DSO to explore **reinstatement options**.

Staying Out of Trouble

- Avoid any criminal behavior or actions that may impact your immigration status.
- Be mindful of your online presence and use caution when participating in public demonstrations, as these actions, even when lawful, can sometimes be misinterpreted and may have unintended consequences for your visa.
- Maintain all key documents documenting legal status, organized and updated, including health insurance or a copy of your class schedule if required.

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS FOR STUDENTS

Understanding Visa vs. Status

- **Remember:** your **visa** allows entry into the U.S., while **status** governs your legal stay.
- You may remain in the U.S. legally with a valid status, even if your visa has expired, so long as all other conditions are met.

Program Duration

- Remind students of the importance of completing their program within the time listed on their I-20.
- If needed, discuss options for extending your program or transferring schools with DSO in advance.