

Immigration Regulations State: An F-1 student who has violated his or her status may be re-instated to lawful F-1 status at the discretion of USCIS and under the following limited conditions: student has not been out of status for more than 5 months, does not have a record of repeated or willful violations, is pursuing or intending to pursue a full course of study, has not engaged in unauthorized employment.

Actions that will violate status include: being enrolled in less than a full-course of study; not being enrolled at all; or not applying for a program extension of stay in a timely manner. If you are ‘out of status’ and qualify for reinstatement please follow the steps below:

1. Speak with an advisor in the International Student and Scholar Office

- If determined an application for reinstatement is recommended, continue to step 2 and 3 below.
- An alternative option may be to travel and re-enter the U.S. thereby beginning your F1 status again. Please note that you will not be eligible for benefits (such as CPT or OPT employment) until 1 full academic year following your re-entry to the U.S.

2. Documents needed to the ISSO to apply for reinstatement: Please submit the items below to the ISSO so a new I-20 marked for reinstatement may be issued:

- Updated financial support documents
- Academic Certification Form
 - Both of the above items can be found on our web page about [Maintaining Status](#)

3. Documents needed to USCIS for reinstatement application:

- New I-20 marked for reinstatement
- Paper form I-539 found at www.uscis.gov/i-539
 - Pay \$370 application fee by cashier’s check or money order
 - Attach the following scanned documents:
 - previous I-20
 - current I-94
 - passport and visa page
 - copy of transcripts showing full-time enrollment
 - additional documentation or letters as advised by the ISSO
 - If you’ve been out of status for more than 5 months, you will also need to pay a SEVIS fee of \$200 and include a receipt of payment www.FMJfee.com

Processing times are inconsistent and can change frequently. Currently I-539 applications are taking anywhere from 6 to 12 months to process. You can check processing times at <https://egov.uscis.gov/cris/processTimesDisplayInit.do>.