



## Academic Dismissal and Effects on Immigration Status for F-1 and J-1 Students

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### **Academic Dismissal Summary**

If an F-1 or J-1 student is academically dismissed (suspension or termination) during or after the semester resulting in the inability to enroll for classes, there can be severe immigration consequences. Below are the options available to students and some instructions on how to navigate this situation.

### **Instructions for Dismissed International Students**

If you are academically dismissed, the ISSO must, by federal law, terminate your SEVIS record immediately after the date in which the dismissal letter was issued. Once your SEVIS record is terminated, you will be considered “Out of Status” and you must leave the U.S. immediately or request reinstatement from the Department of Homeland Security.

If you are in the United States, you MUST take one of the following actions:

1. Depart the U.S. immediately
- OR
2. Appeal the dismissal decision immediately. Meanwhile, complete the following steps:
  - a. Apply to a new program of study or another school to secure admission as soon as possible.
  - b. Request the Transfer-in form from your new school of enrollment and ask the ISSO sign it.
  - c. After you secure admission to another school, bring a copy of your new admission letter to the ISSO and request a transfer of your SEVIS record to the new school.

If you are outside the United States, you MUST take one of the following actions:

1. Appeal the dismissal decision immediately. Meanwhile, complete the following steps:
  - a) Apply to a new program of study or another school to secure admission as soon as possible.
  - b) Request the Transfer-in form from your new school of enrollment and ask the ISSO sign it.
  - c) After you secure admission to another school, scan a copy of your new admission letter to the ISSO and request a transfer of your SEVIS record to the new school.
  - d) Re-enter the U.S. on the new school’s I-20. Your SEVIS number will remain the same.



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If your SEVIS record has been terminated, the ISSO strongly recommends ONE of the following:

1. Depart the United States immediately.
2. If you are inside the U.S. apply to and secure admission to another school and apply for immigration reinstatement.
3. Exit the U.S. and re-enter on the other school's I-20. Note: If your entry visa is not valid, you must renew your visa before re-entering the U.S

### **Important Reminders When Submitting an Appeal**

If there is an option to appeal the decision, students should submit it before the deadline. Instructions are included in the notification that is sent to students informing them of their academic dismissal.

- If the appeal is approved, then there is no immigration consequence and the student may continue to enroll fulltime.
- If the appeal is denied, then the student may follow instructions to appeal the denial or exit the U.S. immediately.
- If the student submits an appeal to the denial decision, then he/she may remain in the U.S. until the second/final dismissal decision is made.
- If the student wishes to withdraw his/her appeal, then he/she may transfer to another institution as long as an offer of admission has been received.
- Once the ISSO learns of the final denial decision, the SEVIS record must be terminated. However, the SEVIS record can still be released to the new school in terminated status.

If a student does not wish to submit an appeal, he or she has the following options:

- Depart the U.S. immediately.
- Secure admission to another U.S. institution and either:
  - Submit a request for the ISSO to transfer the SEVIS record to that school in terminated status and then seek assistance from the new school with a reinstatement application.
  - Request the new school to issue a new I-20 and use it to exit and re-enter the U.S. Note: If your entry visa is not valid, you must renew your visa before re-entering the U.S
- The SEVIS record will be terminated in either of these cases.