You are reading this because you have violated your F-1 student visa status. If you wish to continue studying at Portland State University or the IELP, please read carefully the steps you must follow to regain your F-1 student visa status.

**Prepare to leave the U.S. as soon as possible upon your notification of status violation:**
1. You must meet with your International Student Advisor in EH 101, and confirm your plans for travel.
2. Request a new I-20 from your Advisor. You will be required to submit new financial documentation (for example, a recent bank statement or Financial Guarantee Letter for the following terms).
3. Use the new I-20 to pay the SEVIS I-901 fee ($200). You must pay online with a credit card: [https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/](https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/)
4. Print the fee payment receipt, and attach it to your new I-20.

**For your travel plans**
- **It is strongly recommended that you return to your home country.** To return to your home country you only need your passport. Then, to return to the U.S., follow the instructions below.
- **It is possible to travel to Mexico or another country and then return to the U.S. This option is not recommended.** Why?
  - Traveling to Mexico, Canada or another country is more complicated.
  - You may need to apply for a visa in order to enter that country, which will take time. You must research how to apply for a visa and complete the process. You may not be granted a visa if it is clear that you violated your status in the U.S.
  - If you are permitted to enter the other country, but you are not permitted to return to the U.S., you will be required to stay in that country and to return to your home country.
  - Because travel between the U.S. and Canada or Mexico is more relaxed, it may be more difficult to obtain a record of your travel and that you have successfully regained F-1 status.

**Travel to regain your F-1 student status - Leave the U.S.**
5. Verify that your passport is valid 6 months into the future.
6. Check that your F-1 student visa is and will be valid for when you re-enter the U.S. You must confirm with a U.S. embassy or consulate in your country if your F-1 visa in your passport is still valid for traveling to the U.S.
7. Take your valid F-1 visa and new I-20. You should carry your old I-20s as well as proof of your financial support and transcripts.
8. You must leave the United States.
9. Give the airline attendant or the immigration officer your I-94 card (if you have one).
10. Return to the U.S. using the new I-20, current F-1 visa and valid passport.
11. Present your new I-20 (with SEVIS fee receipt attached) to the immigration officer.
12. Be prepared to explain why you have a new I-20: **Explain that you violated your status and that you have traveled to regain your F-1 student visa status and attend PSU. Carry your old I-20s with you, but separately. Do not present your old I-20s unless the immigration officer asks to see them.**
13. Make sure that you receive a new stamp in your passport showing your entry. You should also check your electronic I-94 record (if you travel by land, be sure to receive a new I-94 card that is stamped “F-1/D-S.”)
14. If you are permitted to enter the U.S., you have regained your F-1 student visa status.

**Go to PSU to report that you have arrived**
Go to East Hall 101 with your passport and a copy of your SEVIS receipt so that we can make photocopies for your record. **It is very important that you do this, as we cannot activate your SEVIS record until we can verify that you’ve successfully re-entered the U.S. in F-1 status.**
Travel to Regain F-1 Status, cont.

Who may wish to consider regaining status by traveling?

- Students who already plan to return home for a vacation.
- Students who are one year or more from graduation.
- Students who have been out of status for more than 5 months.

When should I travel?

You should make an effort to travel outside the U.S. as soon as possible after the status violation has occurred.

Can you guarantee that I will be allowed back into the United States?

Since it is up to Customs and Border Protection to decide who can enter the U.S., there is never a guarantee that a student will be allowed entry into the United States.

What documents should I take with me when I travel to regain my F-1 status?

- New, initial-entry I-20 and SEVIS fee receipt
- Passport, valid 6 months into the future
- Valid F-1 visa
- I-94 card if you entered the U.S. before April 2013; you must turn this in to U.S. Customs and Border Protection or the airline agent before you leave the U.S.
- Unofficial transcripts from all U.S. institutions attended
- Old I-20s
- Documentation of financial support (for example, bank statements or a financial guarantee letter)

Who may not regain status by traveling with a new I-20?

Students who are not eligible to continue studying at PSU or in the IELP. You must be eligible to continue as a student at Portland State University. You are not eligible to regain status by traveling if you have been academically dismissed from the university.

How will traveling to regain F-1 status affect my eligibility for off-campus employment?

Traveling to regain F-1 status restarts the 9-month enrollment requirement for eligibility for Curricular Practical Training (CPT), Optional Practical Training (OPT), and Economic Hardship employment. This is different from applying to the USCIS for reinstatement. In that case, if your application for reinstatement is approved, your eligibility for CPT/OPT and Economic Hardship is not affected.