



Harrisburg Area Community College Center for Global Education

International Student Services
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TRAVEL OUTSIDE THE US: F-1 STUDENTS

Before leaving the United States, students should meet with the International Student Coordinator, Cooper 101A, regarding the documents they will need to re-enter the United States. To re-enter the United States after being absent for **less than 5 months***, the following documents are required:

- (1) valid passport (must be valid at least 6 months into the future)
- (2) valid, unexpired F-1 visa
- (3) valid form I-20 signed by the International Student Coordinator or other Designated School Official (DSO) within 6 months of your travel date

Please note: A new I-94 record will be created for you when you return to the U.S. and pass through customs. We strongly recommend you log in and print it, please go to: <http://www.cbp.gov/i94>

The following documents may be required when applying to renew your visa or under special circumstances:

- (4) letter from the International Student Coordinator stating that you are in good F-1 status
- (5) current proof of financial support
- (6) proof that you are registered for the next semester (registration receipt)
- (7) HACC transcripts
- (8) Employment card and letter from employer (if you're doing Optional Practical Training)

Valid U.S. Visa

The visa is the stamp in the passport. The visa indicates the type of visa, the expiration date, and number of entries permitted. As long as the visa indicates F-1 visa type, is **multiple-entry**, and has **not yet expired**, you do not need to apply for a new visa.

If your visa is expired or was only valid for one entry, then you will need to make arrangements to apply for a visa renewal during your visit outside the U.S. Please consider that this process may take several weeks or longer and there is no guarantee that you will be given another visa. **It is possible you may not be allowed to return to the U.S.** Visit the website of the closest U.S. Embassy in your home country for more information on application requirements for getting an F-1 visa.

See <http://www.usembassy.gov/> for a list of U.S. Embassies.

Foreign Visa

If you are visiting a country other than your own, you may need a visitor's visa to enter. To find out about entry requirements for other countries, go to <http://www.embassy.org/embassies/> and select the country you will be visiting.

* Students absent from the U.S. for more than 5 months will be terminated and will have to reapply to re-enter the U.S. If you intend to leave the U.S. for more than 5 months, please notify the International Student Coordinator.

Travel to Contiguous Territory (i.e., Canada, Mexico, or adjacent islands other than Cuba)

For travel to a contiguous territory, first check to see if a tourist visa will be required to enter. Information on Canadian tourist visas is available by visiting, <http://www.canadianembassy.org>.

Non-immigrants traveling to Canada, Mexico or one of the islands adjacent to the United States (other than Cuba) for less than thirty days (except citizens of Iraq, Iran, Syria, Libya, Sudan, North Korea, and Cuba) may return to the U.S. on an expired U.S. visa as long as they have a valid, unexpired passport, valid unexpired Form I-94, and valid, signed SEVIS I-20. This process is known as automatic visa revalidation. However if you meet one of the following criteria, you will not be able to revalidate your visa:

- You applied for a new visa and DoS has not yet issued it to you.
- You applied for a new visa and DoS denied the application
- You have a terminated SEVIS record indicating that you are out of status
- You have been out of the United States for more than thirty days

When traveling to contiguous territory, international students do not surrender their I-94s (small white card usually stapled in the passport). You will need the I-94 to re-enter the United States.

Adjacent islands include: Saint Pierre, Miquelon, The Dominican Republic, Haiti, Bermuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica, The Windward and Leeward Islands, Trinidad, Martinique and other British, French and Netherlands territory or possessions in or bordering on the Caribbean Sea.

Canadian Citizens

Canadians reentering the U.S. do not need a U.S. visa. They will need an endorsed I-20 and valid I-94 (for re-entry to the U.S.).

Practical Training

If you have completed your studies and have applied for Practical Training, you must have your Employment Authorization Document (EAD) with you, as well as your SEVIS I-20 endorsed for practical training, in order to re-enter the United States. If you are on Practical Training and will need to obtain a new F-1 visa before returning to the United States, it is strongly advised that you have with you a letter from your employer, verifying your employment status. Federal regulations state that an F-1 on authorized practical training may depart the country temporarily and re-enter the United States to "resume" employment, which means not only must you have a job offer, but employment must have already commenced. Students are warned that visa issuance for individuals on practical training can be highly problematic, since you may have a hard time proving that you do not intend to immigrate to the United States. Such students are urged to discuss their situation with the International Student Coordinator before they travel.

**✈️🌐 Have fun, be safe, and best wishes in
your travels! 🌐✈️**