Leave of Absence
Immigration Implications

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Agenda

• Leave of Absence General Information
• SEVIS Record Implications and Timeline
• Impact on CPT/OPT
• Return from Leave Process
• Q & A
Leave of Absence

• Students who wish to discuss a leave of absence should reach out to their residential college dean.
• Students can also review more information at https://timeaway.princeton.edu/
• The deadline to request a leave of absence is today, August 13th at 12pm by submitting the form found on the Fall 2020 FAQs: https://fall2020.princeton.edu/info/undergraduate-students/faqs
Impact of Leave of Absence on SEVIS Record

• Your eligibility to remain SEVIS Active is based on current enrollment. As enrollment temporarily ends while on a leave of absence, your SEVIS record will be closed during this time.

• Within 21 days of official notification, the record is closed and students will have a 15 day grace period to prepare to depart the U.S.
Immigration Impact

• Your current form I-20 or DS-2019 will no longer be valid as of the termination date and cannot be used for future travel to the U.S.
• Your F-1/J-1 visa stamp in your passport will no longer be valid regardless of expiration date for entry while on leave.
What happens to OPT/CPT?

• The regulations require that students have been enrolled for at least one full academic year after their return prior to obtaining OPT or CPT authorization.

• Students may apply after having returned for only one semester; however, OPT adjudication is at the discretion of USCIS.
Returning from Leave

• Students should contact their Residential College Dean to begin the Academic readmission process.
• The Davis IC will reach out to eligible students to coordinate processing new immigration documents for their return.
• You will be issued a new I-20/DS-2019:
  – The SEVIS Fee will need to be paid again for the new record.
  – If your F-1 visa remains valid, you will need to contact the U.S. Embassy/Consulate to determine if you will need to apply for a new visa.
  – CBP ultimately determines admissibility, so students are also advised to confirm visa validity directly with CBP.