

International Students & Frequently Asked Questions

Q&A

TRAVEL SIGNATURES: A family member, loved one, friend is ill or has passed away, or other emergency that will require you to leave the U.S. and you want to go home what do you do?

- Please make necessary arraignments and leave. Do not wait to see OISSS.
- When you have time email OISSS with URGENT in the subject line regarding your unexpected departure. During the next business day OISSS will reply to your email with detailed instructions how to return to the U.S.
- Every student has a different situation and yours may be different. However, if you have maintained your F-1 status we will ask you create an account at <https://study.eshipglobal.com/> select The University of Toledo OISSS and a shipping label will be created for OISSS to mail your Travel I-20 to you.
- Scanned copies may not be used for reentry into the U.S.
- Please be patient we will work quickly to address your concerns and give you information that will permit you to reenter the U.S.

Please keep in mind, if you have violated your status or have an outstanding balance for the current term a travel I-20 will not be given.

I lost or forgot my I-20 and I'm traveling back to the U.S.?

- If you are traveling proceed to Customs and Border Protection. You may share the following information with them to contact a Designated School Official.
- Please call 419.530.4229 from 8:15-5:00 Monday through Friday except holidays or when the University is closed. After hours or during time the University is closed please call, the UT Police department non-emergency line 419.530.2601 and they will contact a DSO after hours.

My F-1 visa is expired and I'm traveling out of the country, what should I do?

- You must have a valid visa to return to the U.S.
- You will need the following documentation for your visa application:
 - o Endorsed (signed) Form I-20 or DS-2019. You will need to make the request through I-Rocket Portal to request a travel signature.
 - o Verification of maintenance of status. (Transcript)
 - o Valid Passport (for a minimum of 6 months beyond your U.S. reentry date)
 - o Original evidence showing proof of sufficient funds to cover tuition and living expenses.
 - o Evidence showing your intention to return to your home country upon program completion (i.e., letter from family, letter from employer, evidence that you own property, prosperous economy/job market, etc.)

Will I be able to return to the U.S. if my F-1 visa is expired and I'm traveling to Canada, Mexico, or one of the islands adjacent to the United States?

- In most cases, you will be able to revalidate an expired visa automatically when returning from a visit of less than thirty days to Canada, Mexico, or one of the islands adjacent to the U.S. provided that you have a valid SEVIS Form I-20 or DS-2019 and a valid unexpired Form I-94. You will also need a valid Passport (for a minimum of 6 months beyond your U.S. reentry date)
- However, if you meet any one of the following criteria, you will not be able to automatically revalidate your visa:
 - You have applied for a new visa and it has not been issued,
 - You applied for a new visa and were denied,
 - You have a terminated SEVIS record indicating that you are out of status,
 - You have been out of the U.S. for more than 30 days,
 - You are a citizen of one of the following countries: Iran, North Korea, Sudan, Syria.
- [Reference 8 CFR 214.1(b)(3)]

Will I need a visa to enter Canada?

- Maybe. Citizens of the following countries and territories require a visa to visit Canada:
- If you require a visa to enter Canada the following website describes the steps to apply for a visitor visa: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada.html>

What is a travel signature? Is that the same as an “Endorsed Form I-20?”

- They are the same thing. A travel signature is a signature given by a Designated School Official in the Office of International Student & Scholar Services that indicates that you have notified an OISSS staff member that you will be traveling outside the U.S. This signature also verifies that you have been maintaining your status at UT.
- A travel signature is valid for one year.
- You will need to make request for travel through I-Rocket Portal to request a travel signature. Please follow this link: oiss.utoledo.edu
- The I-20 will be endorsed on the spot after the student receives an approval for travel email. Please consider this time requirement and plan accordingly.

My F-1 visa is expired, do I need to leave the U.S.?

- No. You can stay in the U.S. on an expired F-1 visa as long as you maintain your student status.

Helpful links:

- oiss.utoledo.edu (I-Rocket Portal)
- i94.cbp.dhs.gov (I-94 Search)
- egov.uscis.gov/casestatus
- utoledo.edu/cisp/international