



VISA REVOCATIONS & SEVIS TERMINATIONS

Since early 2025, ICE and the Department of State (DOS) have escalated enforcement against F, M, and J visa holders. This includes SEVIS terminations, visa revocations, and removal proceedings—often without advance notice or criminal convictions. Professionals, visitors, and exchange scholars have also been impacted.



Legal Grounds

- DOS can revoke a visa under INA § 221(i), even if the person is in the U.S.
- SEVIS records may be terminated per INA § 237(a)(1)(C)(i) or flagged via background checks.
- Grounds for action may include alleged foreign policy risks (INA § 237(a)(4)(C)) or inadmissibility (INA § 212(a)(3)(B)).



Social Media & Secret Revocations

A March 2025 DOS cable authorizes visa denial or revocation based on social media, foreign policy concerns, or perceived hostility toward U.S. institutions—even without any illegal conduct. Visa holders may not be notified of revocation until travel or SEVIS deactivation.



SEVIS Termination

- Terminates F-1 status immediately
- Invalidates work authorization (OPT/CPT)
- May lead to removal proceedings



Reinstatement: Limited Option

Filing Form I-539 for reinstatement is possible but slow (6–12 months) and risky. Avoid if you are graduating soon, have worked without authorization, or have unresolved legal issues.



What to Do Now

- Save your I-20s, SEVIS notes, I-94, passport, visa, EAD
- Sign and retain G-28, ICE privacy, and FERPA releases
- Inform counsel of program status, location, DSO info
- Contact us directly before making travel or filing decisions



Unlawful Presence (UP)

Under *Guilford College v. McAleenan*, F-1 students do not accrue unlawful presence unless USCIS or an immigration judge makes a formal finding.