F-1 Student Withdrawal Guidelines
Impact of Enrollment Status on Non-Immigrant Visa Status
Information for International Students in F-1 (Student) Visa Status
Who Leave Middlebury College as a result of Academic Failure, Suspension, or Withdrawal

Enrollment Status:
Your F-1 student non-immigrant visa status is directly linked to your enrollment status at the College. A change in your enrollment status at the College has a direct impact on your status in the U.S. Voluntary Withdrawal, Academic Failure, or Suspension from Middlebury College changes your enrollment status to “withdrawn.”

Non-Immigrant Visa Status:
A “withdrawn” enrollment status automatically puts an end to your F-1 student visa status. Your Middlebury College I-20 is no longer valid, even though the dates on the I-20 have not yet expired. You must act quickly to ensure you do not fall “out-of-status” if you remain in the U.S. (illegally present in the United States). If you remain in the U.S. while being “out of status,” you could be banned from entering the U.S. in the future. This document provides important information about the steps you must take to retain the option to resume your F-1 student status in the future.

***You should keep all previous I-20s as part of your permanent U.S. non-immigrant visa history.***
You may need to show them for future visa applications.

Next Steps and Timing:
Once you are withdrawn from Middlebury College, you are no longer in F-1 student status. As a result, Middlebury College is required to terminate your SEVIS record within 21 days.

- If you wish to withdraw voluntarily, you may do so with advance authorization from your Dean and ISSS. With prior approval, you may remain in the U.S. for a 15-day grace period from the date of your withdrawal to pursue next steps.
- If you have been dismissed due to academic failure or suspension, you have NO grace period, and must take action immediately.

You must choose one of the options listed below to ensure that you do not fall out of status. You may:

- **Depart from the United States**
- **Enroll in another U.S. institution** as a full-time student. Depending on the timing of your withdrawal, you may be eligible for an I-20 transfer and will obtain a new I-20 from the new school. Otherwise, you may be required to travel and re-enter the U.S. with the new school’s initial I-20. Alternatively, it may be feasible to apply to United States Customs and Immigration Services (USCIS) for reinstatement if you cannot travel and you are otherwise eligible for a transfer.
- **Change to a different visa status.** This can be done through an application to request a change of status to USCIS or by departing from the U.S. and re-entering using another type of visa. (For example, you could change from a student visa to a tourist visa. However, a tourist visa usually is valid for a limited period of time, and you cannot work. In addition, it can be difficult to change back from tourist status to F-1 status.)

➔ Please review page 2 of this document for information if you are considering a return to Middlebury.

Kathy Foley, Associate Dean and Director of ISSS
Ben Bruno, International Student and Scholar Advisor
Joani Taylor, International Student and Scholar Advisor
Lauren Berlamino, SEVIS Coordinator
International Student and Scholar Services
Middlebury College - Carr Hall
Middlebury, VT 05753
Phone: 802-443-5858 - Fax: 802-443-2063
Email: isss@middlebury.edu – Web Address: http://go.middlebury.edu/isss

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Readmission:
There are different processes for readmission based on different types of withdrawals. For a voluntary withdrawal, the student indicates an intention to return for a specific academic term to his/her Commons Dean. In those cases, the student does not need to be readmitted, but instead is expected to return as indicated. If the withdrawal is temporarily, the student will work with ISSS to obtain a new I-20 to return. For all other cases, students must be readmitted to the College before ISSS can begin the I-20 process.

- **Readmission Process – Voluntary Withdrawal**
  There are two types of withdrawal—with an intended return date and without a return date. If you withdraw from Middlebury and intend to return to the College, you may need to apply to your Commons Dean for readmission. This is usually the case for medical withdrawals and for those without an anticipated return date. If you are subject to this requirement, the letter from your Commons Dean confirming your withdrawal includes details regarding the materials you need to submit and the timeframe for doing so.

- **Readmission Process - Academic Failure/Suspension**
  Students who are dismissed for academic or conduct reasons and wish to return to Middlebury must petition the Administration Committee for readmission. Your withdrawal letter outlines the requirements and timeline for readmission. Please be aware that there are specific timelines to follow in order to be readmitted to the College. Please consult the Dean of Students Office for further information. Information about the Administration Committee process can be found on the Dean of Students Office web page at [http://www.middlebury.edu/studentlife/dos/administration](http://www.middlebury.edu/studentlife/dos/administration).

**Obtaining a New I-20 from Middlebury College for your Return:**
If your readmission is approved, you will then need to request a new I-20 from Middlebury College. I-20 applications can be found on our Web site at [go.middlebury.edu/isss](http://go.middlebury.edu/isss).

The new I-20 will be sent to you after you submit the application and supporting documents. If you will be returning to Middlebury from outside of the U.S., you will also need a valid F-1 visa in your passport. If your F-1 visa has expired, you will need to obtain a new F-1 visa using the new I-20 from Middlebury College. In some cases, if you have been outside the U.S. for more than five months, you may need to apply for a new visa, even if your initial visa is still valid. You will need to check with the U.S. consulate/embassy to verify your next steps. You should allow ample time for these processes. In some cases, it may take up to three months. Do not attempt to enter the U.S. without a new I-20 and a valid F-1 visa or you may not be eligible to resume your studies at the College.

**Financial Aid Candidates:**
If you intend to apply for readmission and would like to apply for financial aid, please be aware that Student Financial Services will not consider your application until you are returned to an active student status (i.e. your request to return has been approved.). ISSS cannot issue a new I-20 until you receive a financial aid decision listing your family contribution so we can verify the financial documentation you must provide.

Please make sure that you submit your financial aid application and related documentation to Student Financial Services in a timely way. You must also allow ample time for a decision to be made so that you can then provide ISSS with the I-20 application and financial documentation early enough so that we can issue the I-20 before you need to travel. If you need to apply for a new visa, you will need even more time, so please be sure to build these processes into your anticipated timeline.

It is helpful for you to alert us to your desire to return so that we can be prepared to focus our attention on your application once the College makes the readmission decision and once Student Financial Services makes a determination on your financial aid application. Please feel free to consult with us throughout the process.