

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ABOUT INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND SCHOLAR
VISAS AND SEVIS TERMINATIONS



4/3/2025

DISCLAIMER: The information provided in this document is for informal purposes only. Nothing in this document is intended to be construed as or constitute legal advice. For specific questions, please consult your personal attorney.

Q: What is a visa revocation?

A: The Department of State has the authority to revoke a previously issued visa. When a visa stamp in the passport is revoked, it is no longer valid for re-entry into the U.S. (even if it still appears valid with a future expiration date). As a reminder, a visa only needs to be valid when someone enters the U.S. A visa does not determine how long one can remain in the U.S., as explained in the following regulation: [22 CFR 411.112\(a\)](#)

Q: What is the significance of a visa's period of validity?

A: The period of validity of a non-immigrant visa is the period during which the non-resident may use it in making application for admission. The period of visa validity has no relation to the period of time the immigration authorities at a port of entry may authorize the individual to stay in the United States.

Q: How will I know if my visa is revoked?

A: If a student's visa is revoked, the student should receive email from the Department of State. This email will arrive to the email address used for the visa application and may not necessarily be a university email address. The University is not notified, although if the University does find out through SEVIS that a student's status has changed, we will do our best to contact you and inform you of the change. If you receive notification of a visa revocation, we ask that you inform the international office at your campus.

Q: What is a SEVIS termination?

A: SEVIS stands for Student and Exchange Visitor Information System and is the government's database for tracking international students and scholars with F-1 and J-1 visa status. A SEVIS termination usually signifies a change or violation of student status. The most common terminations are for dropping below full-time without permission, failing to enroll and failing to get a timely I-20 extension, but can also occur due to approved changes of status (switching from one visa status to another, such as F-1 to H-1B, etc.).

Q: What can I do if I learn that my visa has been revoked?

A: The first step is to remember that a revoked visa and even a terminated SEVIS record does not mean that you

must depart the U.S. immediately, though that could eventually be the end result. The reasons for revoking a visa are often cited as reasons for terminating the SEVIS record shortly thereafter. You should contact the international office at your campus with the information you received about the visa revocation. The international office will consult the SEVIS database to determine if the SEVIS record reflects termination, and if so, this means that F-1 or J-1 status has ended.

A student who has been informed that their SEVIS record has been terminated should immediately cease any employment they are currently engaged in, since without the underlying visa status through SEVIS, there is no work authorization. This does not by itself affect a student's enrollment in classes or thesis/dissertation research, though in many cases, the work as a Graduate Assistant (for instance) is directly correlated to the access needed for research. Students should consult their academic program and advisor to determine if this change will affect their enrollment.

Visa revocation or SEVIS record termination does not typically require immediate departure from the U.S. However, at this point, a student's options are limited to consulting legal counsel (an immigration attorney) to discuss the path forward.

Q: What does the University of Nebraska recommend for students who have questions regarding visa terminations or revocations or need to discuss any personal situation?

A: Students who have questions are encouraged to contact the identified designee or support office at their respective campus, listed below, who can further direct you to the person best able to assist you.

UNL: International Student and Scholar Office at isso@unl.edu or (402) 472-5163

UNO: Jennifer Stahl, International Student Advisor at jstahl@unomaha.edu or (402) 554-2293

UNK: Francella Wiles, Assistant Director of International Student Services, at wilesfv@unk.edu

UNMC: Dan Teet, International Student Advisor, at dteet@unmc.edu

Q: Where can I get counseling support?

A: Students who need to discuss a personal situation, feel distressed, or feel they may need counseling are encouraged to reach out to their campus counseling and psychological services offices. These offices offer a safe, confidential place where a student can get support.

UNL: Counseling and Psychological Services—(402) 472-6977 or (402) 472-7450

UNO: Counseling and Psychological Services—(402) 554-2409

UNK: Student Health and Counseling—(308) 865-8248

UNMC: Counseling and Psychological Services—(402) 559-7276



Q: What is the best way to find out my legal options?

A: Talk to an immigration services provider to understand your legal options and avoid fraudulent service providers. When contacting a service provider, make sure you do the following:

- Confirm their credentials,

- Ask for a written contract and a receipt for any payments, and
- If you have doubts, get a second opinion.

If you would like to consult an immigration lawyer for any reason, each campus international advising office can provide a list of attorneys. Students can also consult the Nebraska Immigrant Legal Assistance Hotline at the contact points below.

Nebraska Immigrant Legal Assistance Hotline

- Email: info@immigrantic.org
- Call: 402-898-1349

University of Nebraska-Lincoln students may seek advice from Student Legal Services at <https://studentlegalservices.unl.edu>.

Low-cost immigration legal services may also be found at: <https://www.immigrationlawhelp.org>