Multicultural Affairs
Student Affairs and Campus Inclusion

The information that is shared here is based on federal regulations and university policies as of November 2026. This information is subject to change in the future.

Withdrawing from MSOE & Leaving the United States

F-1 students who decide to permanently withdraw from MSOE should meet with a Designated School Official (DSO) to discuss their plans and understand how withdrawing will affect their F-1 status.

When you withdraw, your SEVIS record will be updated accordingly. In most cases, students will need to depart the United States immediately.

- Students planning to remain in the United States after leaving MSOE will need to transfer their Form I-20 to another institution. See SEVIS Transfers for more information.

- Students who intend to return to MSOE in the future should see instructions for Taking a Leave of Absence.

Medical situations:
Students experiencing a medical condition may be eligible for a medical withdrawal or reduced course load with documentation from a licensed healthcare provider and approval from the DSO. In these cases, students may be permitted to remain in the United States while receiving treatment, as long as their SEVIS record remains in status.

Steps to depart MSOE

1. Meet with a DSO to discuss your decision
2. Read the guidelines about Departing MSOE and complete steps as needed
3. Start working on the Withdrawal, Leave of Absence or University Departure Form
4. Submit a **Withdraw from MSOE - Leaving the U.S. Request** in Terra Dotta where you will confirm your departure plans
5. Return your laptop, submit the withdrawal form to the Registrar's Office, and settle any outstanding balances
6. Depart the United States

What Happens to My I-20?

After your withdrawal has been processed and you have confirmed your plans to leave the United States, your SEVIS record will typically be updated to: Authorized Early Withdrawal

Once your SEVIS record is terminated for Authorized Early Withdrawal:

- Your current I-20 is no longer active.
- Any employment authorization based on that SEVIS record ends.
- You are no longer eligible to use that I-20 for travel or re-entry to the United States.
- If you later decide to return to MSOE, you will generally need a new I-20 and may need to pay a new SEVIS fee depending on how long you have been away.