What are the consequences of being out of status?
Losing F-1 status is a very serious violation of your responsibilities as an international student, and it can have long-term consequences on your immigration benefits in the United States. A student who is out of status is no longer eligible for F1 benefits such as practical training, on-campus employment, and travel signatures to re-enter the U.S. If you remain out of status, it will have a very negative impact on your ability to obtain visas and enter the United States in the future. If you are currently out of status, you should take action IMMEDIATELY to regain F-1 status.

How do I regain F-1 status?
There are two ways to get back in status.

1. **Apply for reinstatement by submitting an application to USCIS.** You will need to provide documentation that you lost status due to circumstances clearly beyond your control. A USCIS immigration officer will decide whether or not to reinstate your status based on the information you provide-in the application. You are required to maintain full-time enrollment (allowed to continue taking classes) while you wait approximately 6-9 months for the adjudication decision, but you cannot work until approved. If you are denied reinstatement, you must leave the U.S. immediately.

2. **Exit the United States and return on a new I-20 issued to you by an ISSS advisor.** In order to obtain a new I-20, you will need to provide the same kind of financial documentation you showed when you were first admitted to Georgia State University. If your F-1 visa has expired, you will need to make a visa appointment in your home country, obtain the visa, and then return to the U.S. using your new initial I-20. Choosing this option means that you will have to wait 1 full academic year after you return before you are eligible for practical training.

You will only be considered for reinstatement to F-1 status if you establish that your loss of status was due solely to circumstances beyond your control or that failure to be approved for reinstatement would result in extreme hardship; you are pursuing or will pursue a full course of study; you have not been employed without authorization; and you are not in removal (deportation) hearings.

What's Next?
An ISSS advisor will discuss your situation with you and help you decide which of these two options might be the best. Remember: whatever your decision is, there is no guarantee that you will regain F-1 status despite our support. The decision is ultimately up to the USCIS adjudicators within The Department of Homeland Security.

If you choose Option 1, ISSS will review your application for accuracy and completion, but you will mail it yourself. If you choose option 2, ISSS will provide you with the new initial I-20 for the travel option. ISSS will send you a link to your student e-mail to request a new I-20 via iStart. You must Complete the e-form Reinstatement I-20 request for Option 1 and 2.

Refer to the reinstatement checklist on page 2 of this form.
Reason for Termination / Loss of Status

☐ Under-enrolled without authorization

☐ Employed without authorization

☐ Failure to check-in with ISSS at beginning of program or term

☐ Academic expulsion or exclusion

☐ Otherwise failing to maintain status: ________________________________

The Option I Choose for this Process Is:

☐ Travel outside the U.S. and return on a new initial I-20 from GSU (fast)

☐ Remain in the U.S. and Submit an Application for Reinstatement to USCIS (min. 6-9 months)

Reinstatement Application Checklist

An application for reinstatement submitted to USCIS must contain the following items:

Provided by student

☐ I-539 form (available on www.uscis.gov)

☐ Cover letter explaining the details of how you lost status, how it was beyond your control, and any other compelling information to support your case

☐ Original form I-94

☐ Financial documents — less than 1 yr. old and showing 3 months consistent liquid funds

☐ $370 filing fee. Acceptable forms of payment include: 1. Personal US Check or US Money Order payable to "Department of Homeland Security", or 2. Personal Credit Card. To use this option, submit form G-1450 (Authorization for Credit Card Transaction) with your application. ☐ Photocopies of all old I-20’s

☐ Certified transcripts from ALL schools attended in the U.S.

☐ Clear copy of biographic page of passport

☐ Official evidence of full-time, current or next term enrollment.

☐ SEVIS fee (I-901) receipt — see www.fmjfee.com

☐ Student is responsible for mailing their own application. (May use ISSS address on application)

Provided by ISSS advisor

☐ New Initial I-20 for reinstatement — (issued by ISSS after review of your financial documents.)

☐ DSO support letter (optional)
Where to File

**Tip:** We recommend writing “Expedite I-539 Reinstatement Applications” on your envelope and making a copy of your application for your records. Consider sending your application by U.S. “certified mail with return receipt.” Note that if you move, mail from USCIS will NOT be forwarded to your new address.

For U.S. Postal Service (including US Postal Service Express mail):

USCIS
P.O. Box 660166
Dallas, TX 75266

For express mail and courier deliveries (UPS, FedEx, DHL):

USCIS
ATTN: I-539
2501 S. State Highway 121 Business
Suite 400
Lewisville, TX 75067

What Happens Next

- A receipt notice will be sent to you from California Service Center with a case number assigned. You may then use the case number to check the status of the application from USCIS web site.

- If your application is denied, you may not appeal that decision and you must depart the U.S. immediately. The F-1 visa stamp in your passport becomes invalid immediately, even if the dates remain valid.

- If your application is approved, USCIS will send you your I-20 and Form I-797A. I-797A is your reinstatement approval notice. You may also receive either your original I-94 card back if you mailed in your original or you may receive a new I-94 card located at the bottom of Form I-797A. Please contact your International Student Advisor at GSU to arrange a meeting after you receive the above-mentioned documents.

Statement of Understanding

I, ________________________________, understand that ISSS is assisting with my application based on the information I submitted, and ISSS cannot guarantee that my application will be approved. It is my responsibility to maintain my F-1 status in the United States, and it is also my responsibility to apply in a timely manner for reinstatement to F-1 status if I am not currently in status. ISSS will notify me as soon as they receive my receipt notice, any other notices from USCIS, and my approval/denial notification. I understand that if my reinstatement request is denied I must leave the United States immediately.

Signature_____________________________________ Date _______________

3/2/2018