



Authorized early withdrawal (AEW) is a temporary absence outside of the United States (US) for less than five months. It is an option for students who need to unexpectedly leave the US before their program completion date. Reasons can include family emergencies, financial issues, and personal reasons (e.g., mitigating circumstances petition approval).

What You Should Know About the AEW

- Students in F-1 status are expected to be enrolled every session or semester until they complete their program of study unless they are eligible for annual vacation.
- The only exception that allows you to remain in the US is if you have a documented medical condition and are approved for a "Medical [Reduced Course Load](#)".
- An AEW will safeguard your SEVIS record for up to five months while you are outside the US.
- Applying for an AEW will involve the completion of a [Student University Withdrawal](#) form or completion and approval of a [Mitigating Circumstance Petition](#) (**both must be completed prior to the end of the semester**) and be approved before the AEW will be processed.
- **It is especially important to understand that applying for an AEW involves the termination of your SEVIS record.** If you return to resume your classes within five months of your last semester of attending classes, your SEVIS record will be eligible to be reactivated.
 - If you do not request that ISS reactivate your SEVIS record, you will not be permitted to re-enter the US. Request must be submitted **60-days before** you plan to re-enter the US.
- **ISS cannot guarantee the reactivation of your F-1 SEVIS record after termination due to AEW. Reactivation requests are decided by the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)**
 - If the reactivation is denied, you must reapply to the university, for a new I-20, and the F-1 visa.
- If you return to the US more than five months after receiving the AEW, you will need to apply for [reinstatement](#); this includes:
 - Applying for a new I-20 (receive a new SEVIS ID number)
 - Paying the SEVIS fee for the new SEVIS ID number
 - Being in F-1 status for an academic year before being eligible for most types of off-campus employment
- If granted an AEW you must depart the US **15 days following** the withdrawal date noted in SEVIS. **If you do not depart within 15 days of the authorization, we will not be able to re-activate your SEVIS record for your return.**
 - When an AEW is approved, you must discontinue any authorized employment.
- Before applying for AEW, consult with your DSO and make sure you are fully aware of the steps you need to take in order to return to Florida Poly and resume your studies. In addition, you must make sure you are eligible to register for the semester you plan to return before you can be reactivated.
- Before you return to the US., you must also ensure that your F-1 visa is valid; if it is not, you must apply to renew your visa.