Scenario 1: Take the entire semester off/no plan to enroll

John completes a full-time study in Spring 2019 and decides to take the Fall 2019 semester off. He did not enroll in any classes in Fall 2019. He left the U.S. on August 20, 2019, and would return to the U.S. on December 29, 2019.

John is not eligible to request his SEVIS record to be reactivated. His last day of attendance in Spring 2019 was May 22, 2019 (Last day of finals), and the first day of Spring 2020 was January 27, 2020. The gap between May 22, 2019, and January 27, 2020, is greater than 5 months.

To return for Spring 2020, John must contact OIP and receive an initial I-20 with a brand new SEVIS ID number. John will also need to pay the SEVIS fee again. He will not need to apply for a new F-1 visa if his current F-1 visa stamp in the passport is valid.

Scenario 2: Enroll full time and withdraw from school in the middle of the semester

John enrolled full time in Fall 2019. He had to leave the U.S. in the middle of Fall 2019. He withdrew from all the classes on October 2, submitted a signed of TORF on October 3, and left the U.S. on October 8. He planned to return to the U.S. on December 29, 2019 to continue his study in Spring 2020.

John is eligible to request his SEVIS record to be reactivated. He met both conditions: he was not out of the U.S. for more than 5 months and the gap between his last day of attendance in Fall 2019 was October 2 (The day he withdrew from Fall 2019), and the first day of Spring 2020 was January 27, 2020, is less than five months.

To return for Spring 2020, John must contact OIP at least 60 days before December 29, 2019 (his planned return date) and following instructions from the F-1 international student advisors.