

Hello F-1 Students,

As some of you might know, the two unions at PCC might go on strike. Some of you already emailed to ask about how a strike at PCC might affect your F-1 status. Because it seems like a strike might happen, we wanted to provide more information to you, as F-1 students.

If the strike happens, OISS offices will likely be closed and all other campus resources will be limited. Any support available to you as a student will be minimal. Please check the [OISS webpage](#) for updates to Hours of Operation during the strike. You can also read more about the strike for all students on [this union webpage](#).

### **F-1 Students in Classes**

#### *Winter 2026 Term*

Even if strike begins at the end of the Winter 2026 term, your F-1 status should not be affected, as long as you continue follow the F-1 regulations. This means:

- You must be enrolled in at least 12 credits with in-person credits. You should not withdraw or drop any classes, unless you have approval to do so.
- If you are already approved for a vacation term or Reduced Course Load, you are exempt from this requirement for the Winter 2026 term.
- You must [update the OISS](#) if you change your address, your phone number, or your name.
- Do not work over 20 hours per week, if you are not on a vacation term, and do not work off-campus without work authorization on your I-20.

#### *Spring 2026 Term*

To prepare for the Spring 2026 term, **before March 9, 2026**, you must:

- Pay for health insurance (available now)
- Address any other holds on your account
- Register for classes, when your group is able to register.

If you are not able to register full time before March 9th, you might have difficulties registering and there might not be anyone available to help you during the strike.

If you are not registered for classes by the late add/drop deadline (Tuesday, April 7, 2026), then you must:

- transfer to another school, or
- depart the U.S.

Remaining in the U.S. with your SEVIS Record (I-20) at PCC is not possible if you are not registered for classes. This policy is not new and it is not because of the strike. However, there will be less support available to you to assist with registration during the strike.

If you plan to request CPT, OPT, a vacation term, a Reduced Course Load or to transfer in the Spring 2026 term, submit the [Request Form](#) and required documents **before March 9, 2026** to avoid any delays or issues.

### **Students on OPT**

You should use the SEVP Portal to update changes to your employment, address, or phone number within 10 business days. If you have not accessed or set up your SEVP Portal, please reply to this email to have your account reset. You must access your SEVP Portal within 24 hours after it has been reset.

If you have no changes during the strike, no steps need to be taken.

At the end of your OPT, you have a 60-day grace period to transfer to another school or to return home. You can inform the OISS by submitting the [Request Form](#) during the 60-day grace period. However, if the unions are on strike when you submit the form, please allow at least 2 weeks to process any request. It might not be possible to process last minute requests.

You must keep track of your own unemployment days and prepare to transfer or return home before you reach 90 days of unemployment. Additionally, the OISS will not be able to assist if your OPT application is being processed [outside of normal processing times](#).

Tell us if you have any questions.

Kindly,  
Rianna

**Rianna Robertson-LeVay**

*Pronouns: she/her, they/them*

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**Portland Community College**

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Schedule an Appointment with a SEVIS Team DSO | [Request Form](#)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [TikTok](#)

**Please consider making a donation to support international students who may experience financial need.** Visit the [PCC Foundation website](#) and donate to the **F-1 International Student Emergency Fund** in the comment box.



**NOTICE:** All F-1 international students are required to be enrolled for a full-time class schedule, with ESOL students enrolled in at least 12 in-person credits, and associate-level students enrolled in at least 9 in-person credits, each term.