

JANUARY 2026

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE AT iSTEME 2025!

iSTEME 2025
BEST STUDENT PRESENTERS
Huston-Tillotson University

FIRST PLACE
Ayomide Isinkaye
Uncovering Health Disparities Through Data: An Interactive Analysis of Lifestyle and Disease Risk in 246,000 Americans
8.54*

SECOND PLACE
Biraj Lamichane
The Future of Work with AI
7.88*

The International Conference on Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Education, 2025
<https://htu.edu/academics/colleges/cas/mathematics/isteme2025/>

In December 2025, the International Conference on Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Education (iSTEME) was held in Austin, Texas, bringing together innovative minds from across the STEM community. According to HT math professor Dr. Farzana Hussain, *"The presenters, both students and professionals, were brilliant and absolutely crushed it!"*

Where innovation meets excellence, iSTEME 2025 exceeded all expectations. Our presenters broke boundaries, showcased cutting-edge research, and helped set the stage for the future of STEM on a global scale.

Two Huston-Tillotson University students were voted Best Presenters for their groundbreaking ideas and exceptional research. Ayomide Isinkaye earned first place and a \$500 prize, while Biraj Lamichane secured second place and a \$300 prize.

Congratulations to Ayo and Biraj! We are proud to support them as they continue pushing boundaries in Data Science, Artificial Intelligence, STEM Education, and Research Excellence.

ACADEMIC DISMISSAL AND APPEAL

Several Huston-Tillotson University F-1 international students were placed on academic suspension at the conclusion of the Fall 2025 semester. When an academic or judicial violation results in a student's suspension or dismissal from their academic program, the impact on the student's F-1 visa status can be significant. An academic suspension that prevents enrollment in courses may require the termination of the student's visa status and departure from the United States.



If a student is academically dismissed and the appeal is denied, federal regulations require the Office of International Programs (OIP) to terminate the student's SEVIS record immediately following the effective date of the dismissal. Once a SEVIS record is terminated, the student is considered "out of status" and is required to depart the United States immediately.

OPTIONS FOLLOWING LOSS OF F-1 STATUS

- **Option 1: Reinstatement:** The Office of International Programs (OIP) strongly recommends working with a reliable and reputable immigration attorney when applying for reinstatement. Reinstatement is a request submitted to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) by a student who has violated F-1 status and is seeking to return to lawful student status. USCIS processing times typically range from approximately five to twelve months. If the application is approved, the student is reinstated and resumes active F-1 status.

- **Option 2: Travel and Re-enter the United States:** A student may choose to depart the United States and re-enter using a new SEVIS record and I-20. Please note that the prior F-1 status violation will remain on the student's record and may affect eligibility for a new F-1 visa. Important considerations include:

- Re-entry is permitted no earlier than 30 days before the program start date listed on the new I-20.
- Payment of the I-901 SEVIS Fee is required for the new SEVIS record.
- Application for a new F-1 visa is required.

Timeline

OIP recommends submitting the reinstatement application as soon as possible after SEVIS termination and no later than five (5) months from the termination date.