



Maintaining Your F-1 Student Status

To maintain your legal F-1 student status you must remember these requirements:

1. Always enroll FULL-TIME during the academic year

Full Course of Study: 12 semester hours during Fall and during Spring semester

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT TO MAINTAIN A FULL COURSE OF STUDY IN ORDER TO REMAIN IN COMPLIANCE WITH HIS/HER NONIMMIGRANT STATUS; IT IS REASONABLE TO EXPECT A STUDENT TO UNDERSTAND THIS RESPONSIBILITY.

F-1 international students can only count ONE online class toward their minimum number of credits as their full-time enrollment during their normal semesters. If you only need one course to complete your program of study, the course cannot be online or distance learning.

2. Keep Your Immigration Documents VALID and CURRENT:

- a. Keep your passport valid
- b. F-1 extension-the end date of your immigration status is written on your form I-20 as the "completion of study" date. If you need more time to complete your course of study, you must apply for extension BEFORE the I-20 completion date. If you do not complete the extension before that date, you will be out of status. For more information regarding program extension make the appointment with International Student Advisor.
- c. Change of Degree Program or educational levels. An F-1 student who continues from one educational level to another is considered to be maintaining status, provided that the transition to the new educational level is accomplished according to transfer procedures.

3. Report a change of address to Essex County College within 10th days of completing the move.

4. Reduced Course Load:

With several exceptions (listed below), you must enroll for a full course of study each term (excluding summer/vacations): 12 credit hours.

Before enrolling part-time you must speak with an international student advisor and complete Application for Reduction Course Load.

You may be able to be certified for part-time enrollment for the following reasons:

- Illness or other verifiable medical reason [8 CFR 214.2(f) (5) (IV)]
- In final term and enrolled for the number of credits necessary to complete the program. [8 CFR 214.2(f) (6) (i) (B)]
- Initial English language difficulties or difficulties with reading requirements [8 CFR 214.2(f) (6) (iii)]
- Unfamiliarity with American teaching methods [8 CFR 214.2(f) (6) (iii)]
- Improper course level placement [8 CFR 214.2(f) (6) (iii)]

STUDENT CAN NOT DROP BELOW FULL COURSE OF STUDY PRIOR TO THE DSO'S APPROVAL.

5. Never work off campus without PRIOR authorization

6. If you travel outside of the United States, be sure to have the proper re-entry documents

The following information is report in SEVIS. The SEVIS reporting has accurate, real time, information on all students:

- Student's initial enrollment at school;
- Any change of program;
- End date of the student's current term of session;
- Start date of the student's next term or session;
- Students address in the U.S.,
- Student's Address abroad,
- Graduation date,
- ANY FAILURE TO ENROLL, MAINTAIN STATUS OR COMPLETE PROGRAM
- Any disciplinary action taken against student as result of student being convicted of a crime.

And never forget: Always enroll FULL TIME during the academic year.