Your Guide to Maintaining F-1 Status

Entering the U.S. and Orientation

- Enter the United States no more than 30 days before your program start date.
- Complete electronic check-in and attend International Orientation upon arrival in Ames, no later than your program start date.

Enrollment

- Register for a full-time course load every semester.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Graduate without Assistantship</th>
<th>Graduate with Assistantship</th>
<th>IEOP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall/Spring</strong></td>
<td>12 credits</td>
<td>9 credits</td>
<td>Determined by department</td>
<td>20 clock hours*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summer</strong></td>
<td>6 credits</td>
<td>4.5 credits</td>
<td>Determined by department</td>
<td>18 clock hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(If Summer is first or last semester at ISU)</td>
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*Regulations state 18 clock hours, but IEOP policy is 20 clock hours

- If you cannot enroll full time because of academic, medical, or other reasons, speak with your academic adviser and ISSO adviser BEFORE dropping classes.
- Only one online course, not to exceed 3 credits, can count toward your full-time enrollment.
- Make normal progress toward completing your degree, avoiding academic probation, suspension, or dismissal to the best of your ability.

Employment

- Do not work more than 20 hours on-campus, except during breaks.
  - F-1 students are authorized to work on-campus starting their first semester at ISU.
- Do not work off-campus unless you have authorization from ISSO.
  - F-1 students are eligible to apply for off-campus work permission after completion of one academic year.

Passport and I-20

- If you will be unable to complete your degree by the end date on your I-20, speak to your ISSO adviser about a program extension BEFORE your I-20 expires.
- Make sure your passport is valid for at least 6 months into the future while you are in the U.S.

Travel

- If you plan to travel outside the U.S., make sure your visa is valid and that you have a current travel signature on your I-20. Travel signatures expire in one year from the date signed (six months for OPT).
- Carry copies of your immigration documents (valid passport with visa page, I-94, I-20, and an EAD if applicable) on your person while in Ames. Carry the originals when you travel.
Leaving the University/After Program Completion

- Inform ISSO if you plan to:
  - Transfer to a new school
  - Take a leave of absence
  - Take a break from school
  - Change educational levels at ISU

- Begin a new program of study, transfer to a new school, begin employment with OPT authorization, change your immigration status, OR depart the United States within 60 days of your I-20 end date (or date that you have completed all degree requirements, whichever is earlier).
  - If you are transferring or doing a change of status, speak to ISSO BEFORE your I-20 expires.
  - Undergraduate students will have their I-20 shortened to the end of their final semester.
  - Non-thesis/creative component graduate students will have their I-20 shortened to the end of their final semester of coursework.
  - Thesis/creative component graduate students will have their I-20 shortened to the end of the semester in which they defend.
  - Academic and immigration program completion dates are often very different—speak with an ISSO adviser if you have questions about your immigration status.

- Summer Graduates
  - If you will complete your degree requirements during a summer semester, please be aware of the following requirements:
    - You must be enrolled in at least one course that is considered on campus.
    - You must be enrolled full-time unless you have an approved Reduced Course Load form.

Reporting to the University

- Inform ISSO of important changes within 10 days, including:
  - Address (update in AccessPlus)
  - Major
  - Program
  - Degree level
  - Phone number

Other

- Avoid being involved in any activities that may lead to being arrested and potentially convicted of a crime.

Disclaimer: This Frequently Asked Questions document is intended for general information and guidance. Please consult with an International Student and Scholar Advisor in the International Students and Scholars Office regarding your individual situation.