Enrollment Requirements: Frequently Asked Questions
For J-1 Students

Enrollment Requirements

What is the minimum credit requirement for J-1 students?
Immigration regulations require J-1 students to be enrolled full time during the fall and spring semesters.

Are there any enrollment requirements for summer?
Summer is considered a vacation period for continuing J-1 students. However, J-1 students are required to enroll full time during the summer if:
- Summer is first semester at ISU (applies to both initial and reentry students)
- Summer is first semester in new academic level
- Summer is final semester in program (degree or non-degree)
- Spring II was first term at ISU (applies to IEOP students only)

Are there any exceptions to the full-time enrollment requirement?
A Reduced Course Load (RCL) is requested when a student wishes an exception for the full-time enrollment requirements. Review the Reduced Course Load FAQ on the ISSO website for more information on the RCL and eligibility requirements.

Full-Time Enrollment

How is full-time enrollment defined?
During the fall and spring semesters, full-time enrollment is determined as follows:
- Undergraduate students: 12 credit hours during the fall and spring semesters
- Graduate students: 9 credit hour
- Graduate students with an assistantship: Required credit hours determined by department
- Intensive English and Orientation Program (IEOP) students: 21 clock hours

During the summer sessions, full-time enrollment is determined as follows:
- Undergraduate students: 6 credit hours
- Graduate students: 4.5 credit hours
- IEOP students: 18 clock hours

Online Course Restrictions

How many online courses can I take each semester?
Online courses cannot count toward full-time enrollment for J-1 students. Students who are enrolled full time on campus may enroll in additional online courses.

What are some exceptions to the online enrollment policy?
- Graduate students on assistantship
- If the online course is required for program of study, students may apply to have it count toward full-time enrollment.

Other Course Restrictions

What courses are not included in determining full-time enrollment?
- Online courses
- Audited courses
- Courses dropped after the semester has begun
  - Receive a mark of an "X" or "W"
- More than one class (not to exceed 3 credits) taken online or through distance education for determining full-time enrollment

**Immigration Consequences**

**What are the immediate consequences if I do not meet enrollment requirements?**

- Violation of J-1 nonimmigrant status
- Must immediately stop working on campus
- Any authorized off-campus work will be automatically terminated
- Lose eligibility for all other benefits of J-1 nonimmigrant status
- Lose eligibility to change status, for example from J-1 to F-2, J-1 to H-1B, etc.
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 request.