

F-1 and J-1 Visa Holders Rights and Responsibilities

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In this section we will cover the following topics:

- 1. Maintaining F-1 Status*
- 2. Full Time Course Load*
- 3. Consequences if the Student violates the rules and his/her status?*
- 4. Employment*

Maintaining F-1 Status

- * F-1 students are responsible for complying with the terms and conditions of their visa status.
- * Every F-1 student must pursue full-time study each semester unless approved for a reduced course load by the PDSO or DSO in CGE.
- * Every F-1 student must make normal progress toward completing the program of study before the expiration of the program completion date on the Form I-20.

Maintaining F-1 Status (2)

- * F-1 students must notify the PDSO or DSO if they will complete their program earlier than the end date of the Form I-20.
- * F-1 students who need additional time to complete their programs of study must request and be granted a program extension before the program end date on the current Form I-20.
- * F-1 students must get authorization from the PDSO or DSO before taking a leave of absence or medical leave.

Maintaining F-1 Status (3)

- * F-1 students must report to the PDSO or the DSO at CGE any change of names and address within 10 days of the change .
- * F-1 students must apply for a new I-20 when they change their program of study or educational level.
- * F-1 students must not engage in unauthorized employment.
- * F-1 students must abide by the F-1 grace period rules, including remaining in the U.S. for no longer than 60 days after completing their program at ISU or a period of post-completion of OPT.

Full Time Course Load

- * Undergraduate students must be enrolled in 12 credit-hours in Fall and Spring semesters.
- * Graduate students must be enrolled in 9 credit-hours in Fall and Spring semesters.
- * Students do not need to be enrolled during Summer sessions unless it is their first semester at ISU or they are beginning a new academic program.
- * Students must not drop a course and become less than full-time without prior authorization from the PDSO or the DSO at CGE

Full Time Course Load (2)

- * Undergraduate and graduate students may only take one (1) class or up to 3 credit-hours of online courses each semester as part of their full-time requirement .
- * Exceptions to Full Time Requirement:
 - * Initial Academic Adjustment Difficulty
 - * Last Semester of Study
 - * Documented Medical Condition

Consequences if the Student violates the rules and his/her status?

- * SEVIS is monitored by Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) which is part of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).
- * As PDSO and DSOs we are required to update SEVIS based on the student's program status. If certain dates pass for example without required updates, SEVIS will automatically terminate the student's record.

Consequences if the Student violates the rules and his/her status? (2)

- * Subject the student to deportation and future exclusion to the U.S.
- * The student may apply for Reinstatement to the USCIS to regain his/her status.
- * If the student does not apply for Reinstatement, he will be expected to leave the country immediately. The student can then apply for an “Initial Attendance” I-20 to return to the U.S.

Employment

- * On-Campus
- * Curricular Practical Training (CPT)
- * Optional Practical Training (OPT)

On-Campus Employment

- * Students are allowed to work part-time (up to 20 hours/week) while school is in session.
- * Students are allowed to work full-time during Summer and/or during school breaks.
- * No USCIS approval needed
- * Examples of places for students to work are academic and administrative departments, cafeteria, dorms, library, and computer labs.

Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

- * Defined as alternate work/study, internship, or any other type of required internship or practicum
- * Must have valid F-1 status for one (1) academic year (2 semesters without Summer.
- * Eligible only while pursuing degree program
- * Authorized by DSO at the school where student is pursuing degree with prior approval by academic advisor. No fee required

Curricular Practical Training (2)

- * Must have internship offer
- * Can be approved part-time (20 hours) or full-time.
- * Must maintain full-time enrollment while on CPT
- * Students may engage in CPT only for the specific employer, location and period approved. Employer and location will appear on page two of their I-20.

Optional Practical Training (OPT)

- * Must have valid F-1 status for one (1) academic year (2 semesters without Summer)
- * Must apply to USCIS for Employment Authorization Document (EAD)
- * Job must be directly related to the student's field of study as indicated on his/her I-20.
- * Available for one (1) year at each educational level.
- * May be taken pre or post completion of studies