

Maintaining F-1 Student Status

F-1 students maintain immigration status by:

- **Maintaining required documents**
 1. Unexpired passport—valid at least six months into the future.
 2. Valid I-20—all information should be correct and up to date; all previous I-20s should be saved.
 3. I-94 marked D/S.
*D/S stands for “duration of status” and refers to the time during which an F-1 student is pursuing a full course of study or engaging in authorized practical training following completion of studies, plus an additional 60-day period to prepare for departure [8 CFR 214.2(f)(5)(i) and (iv)].

✓ To print a copy of your I-94 admission record go to: www.cbp.gov/I94
- **Attending the authorized school**—for most students, this is the school listed on the I-20. For students attending school in the U.S. for the first time, this is also the school named on the student visa [8 CFR 214.2(f)(1)(i)(C)].
- **Pursuing a full course of study**—students are expected to carry a full course of study (at least 12 credits for undergraduates and 9 credits for graduates each semester, for the entire semester) or receive prior approval to take a reduced course load. Dropping below full-time status is a violation of immigration status even though it is allowed by University policy. [8 CFR 214.2(f)(6)(i)(B) and (iii)].
- **Limiting online classes**--No more than the equivalent of one on-line/distance education class or 3 credits per session may count towards the "full course of study" requirement. Undergraduate students should enroll in at least nine credits of in-person or hybrid classes each term and graduate students should enroll in at least six credits of in-person or hybrid classes each term [8 CFR 214.2(f)(6)(i)(G)].
- **Making progress toward completion of the degree or program of study.** Most undergraduate students successfully complete at least 24 credits (18 credits for graduates) each calendar year [8 CFR 214.2(f)(5)(i)].
- **Completing a program extension procedure to study longer than the time estimated on the I-20.** Extensions must be completed prior to the completion of studies date on the I-20 and may be granted only for compelling academic or medical reasons [8 CFR 214.2(f)(7)].
- **Completing a transfer procedure to change schools or a change of level to continue from one educational level to another at the same school** [8 CFR 214.2(f)(8)].
- **Working only with authorization**—All employment must be authorized by either the Office of International Students and Scholars or U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and is limited to types specified by regulation [8 CFR 214.2(f)(9)]. Unauthorized employment is a violation of status. Employment is broadly defined under immigration regulations as any type of work performed or services provided in exchange for money, tuition, fees, books, supplies, room, food, or any other benefit [8 CFR 274a.1(f)(g) and (h)].
- **Reporting address changes within 10 days of the move**—Address changes should be reported to the Office of International Students and Scholars [8 CFR 214.2(f)(17)].
- **Departing the U.S. within 60 days of completing the program of study or any authorized period of Optional Practical Training.**

Each student is responsible for maintaining his or her own status.