

Introduction

It is your responsibility to understand and comply with the terms of your immigration status during your stay in the United States. A violation of the immigration regulations (for example, failure to maintain a full-time credit load) could jeopardize your F-1 status and legal stay in the U.S. Review this information carefully and the International Program Director if you have questions.

What is F-1 "Status?"

"Status" is your nonresident category officially granted by an immigration official. To be in F-1 "status" means that you are legally in the U.S. and have benefits and restrictions specified in the immigration regulations for the F-1 visa category. You gain F-1 status either by entering the U.S. with F-1 documents or, for people already in the U.S. in a different status, by applying to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for a change of status.

Period of Authorized Stay

Your admission to the U.S. is for "duration of status," meaning the length of your F-1 status.

F-1 status covers the period when:

- You are a full-time registered student

Visa

The visa is the stamp that the U.S. consular officer places on a page in your passport. The visa permits you to apply for admission into the U.S. as an F-1 student, and does not need to remain valid while you are in the U.S. The F-1 visa is specifically for entry into the U.S. After

Full-time Registration Requirements and Exceptions

In general, F-1 students must be registered full-time.

Do not register for fewer than the required number of credits or withdraw from a course without first receiving permission from your International Program Director/PDSO.

Making Normal Progress

To maintain status, an F-1 student is also required to “make normal progress.” Making normal progress includes, but is not limited to, enrolling in the proper courses required for program completion, maintaining satisfactory academic progress, and continually meeting all institutional enrollment requirements.

Change of Address

Any change of address must be reported to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) within 10 days. Update your local address by meeting with your International Program Director/PDSO and advising of your new address. Please NOTE: your local US address must be your physical address, not a P.O. Box. To update your permanent foreign address, which must be a non-U.S. address, please contact your International Program Director/PDSO.

Graduation or Completion of Your Program

The end of your academic program affects your F-1 status. After you graduate or complete your program, you have a 60-day grace period to either be transferred to another school/university or go back to your home country where your visa was issued.

If you do not complete your educational objective (for example, if you withdraw from your program), you are not eligible for the 60-day grace period and you must leave the U.S. immediately or within 15 days from withdrawing from your program.

Loss of F-1 Status

If you violate the immigration regulations, you will lose your F-1 status.

Students may be able to regain valid F-1 status either through a reinstatement application to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) or through travel and reentry with a new I-20/new SEVIS record. The appropriate option will depend on your individual circumstances; We strongly recommend that students in this situation consult with an experienced immigration attorney.