

Maintaining a Full-Time Course Load

Federal regulations require that students in F-1 and J-1 status be registered for a full-time course load each Fall and Spring semester until graduation. Failure to be registered as a full-time student is a violation of your non-immigrant status, will result in the loss of F-1 or J-1 benefits (including employment eligibility both on and off campus), and may subject you to federal immigration sanctions.

What constitutes a full-time course load varies according to academic level:

Academic Level Minimum	Full Time Course Load:
Exchange Students	12 credits per semester
Undergraduates	12 credits per semester
Graduate Master's Level 1	9 credits per semester
Graduate Master's Level 2 (completion of at least 24 credits)	9 credits per semester

Graduate Master's students who need only thesis or project to complete their program:

- 1 credit or more per semester, certified full-time by department.
- Students with GA, TA, or RA funding who have completed all course work requirements are required to register for 9 credits.

There are some very limited exceptions to the full course of study rule. These reasons include: academic difficulty, medical condition, or completion of study, and there are strict criteria for each. All of these exceptions require documentation and must be approved in advance by the Office of International Student Services before you drop courses that reduce your schedule to less than full-time.

Course "700" for graduate students, also known as "Continuous Registration."

Graduate international students who are in the United States and are close to completing their graduation requirements are strongly advised not to register for 700 or continuous registration. Such a course cannot be certified as full time, and could result in your being in violation of your F-1 or J-1 non-immigrant status. Instead, be sure to consult with your department for an alternative course choice that can be certified as full-time.