

F-1 Maintenance of Status Checklist

- ✓ Report to DSO to be REGISTERED in SEVIS in a timely fashion: no later than 30 days after program start date for students in Initial SEVIS status and no later than 30 days after the next term start date for continuing students.
- ✓ For initial school attendance, the school listed on the visa and on the I-20 must be the same.
- ✓ Pursue a **full-time course of study** at the school listed on the currently valid Form I-20 during every academic session or semester except during official school breaks, or unless approved under a specific exception.
- ✓ Make normal progress toward completing the course of study. Complete before the expiration of program completion date on I-20.
- ✓ Always keep I-20 form valid, following proper procedures when extension of stay is needed.
- ✓ Keep I-20 form valid by following proper procedures for change in educational levels or program of study.
- ✓ Keep Form I-20 valid by following proper procedures for transfer of school.
- ✓ Follow F-1 grace period rules (60 days following program completion).
- ✓ Report change of address to the DSO within 10 days of change so that SEVIS can be updated.
- ✓ If on post completion OPT, report any change of address and change of employer to DSO.
- ✓ Do not work on or off campus unless specifically authorized to do so under F-1 regulations.
- ✓ Follow unique procedures if subject to Special Registration.

Adapted from NAFSA Advisor's Manual 2006 edition

Exceptions to Full Course of Study with Immigration Advisor Approval

- ✓ Illness or Medical Condition
- ✓ Initial Difficulty with English Language
- ✓ Initial Difficulty with Reading Requirements
- ✓ Unfamiliarity with American Teaching Methods
- ✓ Improper Course Level Placement
- ✓ To Complete Course of Study in Current Term
- ✓ Part time Border Commuter Student

* As long as the DSO authorizes a REDUCED COURSE LOAD (RCL) in SEVIS **PRIOR** to the student reducing his or her course load, the student will be considered to be maintaining status.