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.