



Summer Vacation Semester

What is a vacation semester?

- A vacation semester is the **summer** semester in which students are considered by the school to be on break, and **not required** to be registered for classes. During this semester, students are considered to be maintaining status even if s/he is not actually registered for any classes. To be eligible, students must intend to register full time for the next semester.
- Students are allowed to be full time in the summer semester, however must understand that they will not be eligible for another vacation until the next summer. Students who do not wish to be enrolled full-time in the summer vacation semester may choose to be enrolled less than full-time credits. For undergraduates, less than full-time is **11 credits or less**; for graduates, less than full-time is **8 credits or less**.
- A new initial student with a program start date set to begin with the summer semester must enroll full-time for that summer semester. They will not be eligible for a vacation semester until the following summer term.
- Students who start in the spring or fall semester are eligible for a vacation semester the next available summer term. For example, a student who begins their studies in Spring semester, must be full time in Spring, below full time in the following summer, and then must be full time in the next Fall and Spring before being eligible for another Summer semester.

How do I apply for a vacation semester?

There is no need to apply for a vacation semester, as summer is automatically a vacation semester for all F-1 students. You do not need to receive any official approval to go below full time in your summer vacation semester.

Can I work on a vacation semester?

Yes, however, please keep in mind these following guidelines:

- Students can work full time during the summer vacation (whether or not they are full time or below full time) either on or off campus as long as they have requested and received permission from ISSS prior to working. Please see further policy on CPT and On Campus work for more details.
- While you may apply for full-time CPT during non-vacation semester, you **MAY NOT** request to work full time **on campus** during non-vacation semesters: the fall and spring semesters.

Can I study at another school during a vacation?

Yes. An F-1 student may attend another school during an authorized vacation period, provided he or she is eligible and intends to register for the next term at the University of Utah. Students who wish to do this must request a letter to attend another school from ISSS.



General guidelines:

- Your **last semester** is not considered a vacation semester. You must return to full time study after a vacation semester. To be authorized for under-enrollment during your last semester, please submit the Last Semester Request E-form.
- For graduate students who are planning on taking a 0 credit correction semester, a 0 credit vacation semester may not be taken prior to a 0 credit correction semester.
- There are no exceptions to the vacation semester policy.
- **Travel:** You may legally remain in the U.S. during a vacation semester, but if you depart the U.S., a valid travel signature on your I-20 will be necessary for re-entry. If a travel signature is needed, please bring your I-20 to ISSS no later than two weeks before you depart. Although a travel signature is valid for one year, we recommend that a travel signature be no older than 6 months at the time you re-enter to avoid problems at a U.S. Port of Entry. Remember to travel with valid passport, visa, and I-20 at all times.