

# Full Course of Study for F-1 Students

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## **What is full course of study?**

F-1 students are required to maintain full-time status and be making progress towards completion of their degree requirements. Failure to maintain full-time status may result in termination of F-1 visa status.

- Undergraduate student must be registered for a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester
- Graduate student must be registered for a minimum of 9 credit hours or 3 thesis credit hours per semester
- Refer to Online Classes policy guide regarding online classes and full-time enrollment requirement

## **What are the exceptions to full-course of study?**

You are allowed to be under-enrolled under one of the following circumstances:

- Medical issues – please meet with ISSS advisor to discuss about your options and the process to apply for Medical Reduced Course Load. For more information please speak with an ISSS advisor.
- Summer vacation semester- no action is needed. You are allowed to take as little as 0 credits and/or as many in-person or online classes you wish only during the summer semester. However, you must resume your full course of study the next semester (fall and spring). If summer is your first semester, you do not qualify for a vacation semester.
- Last Semester- if fewer credits are needed to complete the program in the final semester, please submit Last Semester Notification e-form to ISSS. For more information, please see Last Semester Notification policy guide.
- Academic difficulties- please meet with ISSS advisor to discuss about your options and process to apply for Academic Reduced Course Load. This can only be used once per degree level. If you are a transfer student and have already received Academic RCL from the previous institution on the same degree level, you are not eligible for another Academic RCL at University of Utah.

\* Submission of the request to ISSS does not guarantee full course exception. Your request must be approved by ISSS in order to receive exception and to maintain your F-1 status.

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### **What happens if I am under-enrolled?**

Unless you have submitted one of the requests above to ISSS, you will be receiving emails informing that you are under-enrolled. You will need to take immediate action by responding to the emails and registering for more credits to pursue full course of study. If you have trouble adding classes or would like to discuss your situation with ISSS, please call our office to make an appointment with ISSS advisor. This is a very time sensitive matter. If you do not respond to emails or take any action, you will be considered to be “out of status” and your SEVIS will be terminated. You will need to apply for reinstatement in order to maintain your F-1 status. Please see [Reinstatement](#) policy guide for more information and also meet with ISSS advisor.

***Disclaimer:** International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) provides support and information related to U.S. immigration laws and regulations related to F and J status at the University of Utah. ISSS staff are not attorneys and any information provided by ISSS should not be construed as legal advice. Individuals are welcome to consult a qualified immigration attorney for specific legal advice, particularly in complicated cases. For a list of local Utah attorneys please visit our website [here](#).*

***Maintaining Status:** USCIS states that it is the student’s responsibility to understand the rules and regulations governing their visa.*