

Maintaining F-1 Status at TSC

Maintaining student status means fulfilling the purpose for why the Department of State issued a student an F-1 visa and following the regulations associated with that purpose. Students are expected to graduate on time and are not permitted to delay their graduation by withdrawing from classes that would complete their program of study. Students are welcome to work on a secondary program of study and must contact ISS for assistance with updating their account and SEVIS record.

Below are actions to take to properly maintain F-1 student status:

- Enter the United States no more than 30 days before the program of study begins.
- Complete the check-in process with TSC ISS after entering the United States, no later than the program start date listed on the I-20/DS-2019 form.
- Report a change of address to TSC and the federal government within 10 days of any move.
- Have a valid, unexpired passport.
- Attend the school authorized to attend.
- Refrain from unlawful employment.
- Make normal progress towards completing a course of study, including:
 - Prioritize classes that first count towards a student's current A.A. or A.S. program of study requirements. Secondly, a student may, with permission, add a course/s that may satisfy an entrance requirement for their intended transfer school and major.
 - Pass the Florida Civic Literacy Exam by the end of the final semester.
 - Students in the A.A. degree program must complete the Foreign Language Requirement by the end of their third or final semester, whichever comes first.

Note: TSC allows F-1 students 2 years to complete an A.A. or A.S. degree, depending upon the amount of college preparatory courses a student requires. For many students, normal academic progress will enable a student to earn their A.A. or A.S. degree within 2 years. Students may not delay completing the foreign language requirement, delay passing the FCLE, nor take excess classes in order to extend their anticipated graduation date.

- Have a valid I-20/DS-2019 and apply for extensions in a timely manner.
- Follow transfer procedures.
- Request a new I-20 for a change in major or degree program level.
- Be a full-time student, taking a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester. F-1 students may only count one online course (3 credit maximum) toward their full-time enrollment requirement, per semester.
- Update ISS on changes in employment information while on OPT within 10 days.

Recognize and Avoid Status Violations

If an F-1 international student violates the requirements that govern his/her immigration status, the ability to remain in the United States as a student would be jeopardized. Examples of violations include but are not limited to the following:

- Failure to enroll in classes required for the student's program of study (e.g., A.A. or A.S. degree) by the main term's Add Deadline.
- Failure to maintain a full course load without prior authorization for a reduction from the student's International Student Advisor.
- Unauthorized employment during the student's stay.
- Failure to leave the United States following completion of the student's course or program-related employment.
- Failure to maintain insurance coverage for the student.
- Failure to receive employment within 90 days of OPT start date.

* Please note that this is not a complete listing of potential status violations. Check with the TSC ISS office for more information.

TSC ISS must authorize a **Reduced Course Load (RCL)** or **Leave of Absence (LOA)** and update SEVIS prior to the student reducing his or her course load. If a student drops below a full course of study without the prior approval of the ISA, the F-1 student will be out of status. If an F-1 student falls out of status for reasons beyond their control, the student may be eligible to apply for a **Reinstatement** of status. International students must work with TSC ISS to determine if reinstatement is an option.