Summer Classes: Do You Need Reduced Course Load Authorization?

Full time enrollment is 9 credits for grad students and 12 credits for undergrads. You only need to submit a Reduced Course Load Request (through My OIS) for the Summer Term for the following situations.

- This is your last term at Pitt in your current program.
  - For example, you will be completing all course requirements by the end of August but do not plan to register full time. OR
  - For example, you will be starting a new degree program at Pitt in the fall and you are taking classes in the summer to complete your current program.
- Summer 2013 is your first term on a new I-20 or DS-2019 and you will not enroll full time. This includes changing degree levels.
- You will not be taking classes in the fall. If you are planning to take a leave of absence for the fall term (and only the fall term), you should request a Reduced Course Load.

For more info about RCL, visit OIS’ website.
**FINAL REMINDER about 2012 Tax Information**

Any individual present in the US in F-1 or J-1 status (and their dependents) during any part of 2012 **must submit at least one tax form even if he/she did not work and did not earn income.** The required form is Form 8843, titled “Statement for Exempt Individuals and Individuals With a Medical Condition.” If you **earned income during 2012**, you must also prepare US Federal, Pennsylvania State (and/or the state in which you lived/worked) and Local Tax Forms.

OIS provides a great deal of information on our [Tax Website](https://www.ois.pitt.edu/taxes) including a table to determine if you are a resident or nonresident for tax purposes. Additionally, we have forms, filing requirements, and information about [GLACIER Tax Prep](https://my.pitt.edu), a software designed to assist nonresidents for tax purposes prepare their federal tax returns and Forms 8843. You will access GLACIER Tax Prep (GTP) via the [Pitt Portal](https://my.pitt.edu).

**Tax Assistance and Resources:**

OIS staff cannot provide in-person assistance with ANY tax questions, including printing or explaining forms. Staff in OIS are not tax professionals. Please see the website for recommendations for tax professionals.

**Questions about Tax Requirements for Nonresidents for Tax Purposes?**

Visit OIS's Frequently Asked Questions ([FAQ](https://www.ois.pitt.edu/taxes/faq)) section of the Taxes [website](https://www.ois.pitt.edu/taxes).

**Deadline for mailing all tax documents for the 2012 year is April 15, 2013.**

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**Take a Hike and Enjoy the Trillium Trails**

The Trillium Trails are a collection of hiking trails in the Pittsburgh suburb Fox Chapel. The trails are called the “Trillium Trails” because of the wildflower Trillium that grows along the paths. These wildflowers are very rare and are only in bloom for a week or two each year, typically in the middle of April. The walking paths are very gentle so almost anyone can enjoy these wonders of nature!

[Trillium Trails Map](https://www.ois.pitt.edu/taxes/trail-maps)
The Office of Cross Cultural and Leadership Development and The World Culture Education Consortium present

THE 56TH PITTSBURGH FOLK FESTIVAL
A Celebration of Diversity

“Go Around the World in an Hour”

April 19 and 20
William Pitt Union and Soldiers & Sailors
FREE with your Pitt ID

April 20th Events ONLY for Pitt ID holders
• Cultural Scavenger Hunt
• Win prizes such as Pittsburgh Power tickets, Civic Light Opera tickets & more!

Festival Highlights
• Continuous Live Entertainment
• International Kitchens
• International Marketplace
• Cultural Exhibits
**Alison’s Zappa-tite: Noodles & Co.**

I have chosen one of my staple Oakland restaurants for this month’s Zappa-tite – Noodles & Co. The food is consistently delicious and fresh with fast and friendly service. Noodles & Co. can appease many ethnic appetites having American, Mediterranean, and Asian noodle varieties. If pasta isn’t your thing, Noodles & Co. also offers sandwiches, soups, and salads. For myself, when I go, I never stray from the noodles. On my recent visit, I ordered the chicken lettuce wrap appetizer and my favorite dish, the Japanese Udon noodles with tofu. The lettuce wraps were a generous portion and were accompanied with a sweet chili sauce. The Udon noodles were perfectly prepared, a thicker noodle with a light brown sauce, shiitake mushrooms, broccoli, carrots, sprouts, and sesame seeds. I chose tofu for my protein, but there are other options available including shrimp, braised pork, steak, etc. To wash it down, Noodles & Co. has an awesome fountain machine with endless Coca-Cola drink varieties & flavors as well as 3 different fresh brewed iced teas. I enjoyed the Jasmine Green iced tea. The price is very reasonable for the portion sizes and could be a lunch or dinner option. Order first, get your number card, and they will bring your order right to your table! Check them out at 3805 Forbes Ave.

http://www.noodles.com/

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**Experience America Picnic—Thursday, June 13th**

Save the date for our Experience America Picnic to be hosted on the Front Lawn of the William Pitt Union! We plan to gather informally to celebrate the start of summer and experience an American Picnic!

http://www.ois.pitt.edu/new-here/experience-america/
Get Involved Pittsburgh—Pittsburgh Marathon Event

If you are not planning on running, why not volunteer? The DICK’S Sporting Goods Pittsburgh Marathon will host close to 30,000 runners from all over the United States and across the world - May 3-5, 2013. Be a part of this premier Pittsburgh event!

Be one of 3,500 volunteers and help runners reach their goal of crossing the finish line on race weekend. Volunteer positions start on Friday, May 3 at the GNC Live Well Pittsburgh Health and Fitness Expo and continue until runners reach the finish line on Sunday, May 5.

All volunteers receive:

- Official DICK’S Sporting Goods Pittsburgh Marathon volunteer t-shirt
- $10 DICK’S Sporting Goods gift certificate
- Invitation to the annual volunteer appreciation party on Thursday, May 16 at 6:30 PM

You’re guaranteed a great experience while supporting one of the biggest events in the city! A wide variety of volunteer positions are available, so you can find the perfect fit for you at this [website](#).

If you are a runner, currently the marathon, half-marathon, and relay event are sold out. You can still register for the [5K event](#) (held on Sunday May, 4) along with the volunteer options.

It is also really fun to watch the race in action! Find out the race course map [here](#). Also, if you plan to travel around Pittsburgh on race day (Sunday May 5), make sure to check out street closures and plan your trip appropriately!
To All of the April and Summer Graduates:

Congratulations on completing your program at Pitt!

Under immigration regulations, your I-20 or DS-2019 expires on your date of degree completion or the program end date listed on your Immigration Document, whichever comes first. OIS will shorten your program end date in SEVIS to accurately reflect when you complete your program. F-1 students who have completed their program have a 60 day grace period after their completion date. Likewise, J-1 students have a 30 day grace period after their completion date. During the grace period, you have the following options: either apply for an OPT, continue your studies at Pitt, transfer to another institution, change your status, or permanently leave the United States.

Post-Graduation Plans

If you are planning to continue your studies at Pitt, but you are changing degree levels or majors, you must contact OIS for a new I-20.

If you wish to apply for Optional Practical Training, please complete your OPT application through My OIS.

If you plan to transfer to another institution in the United States, please complete the Transfer Out Form on My OIS.

If you plan to change your status, please consult the person preparing your visa application.

If you plan to permanently leave the U.S., please have a safe trip!

If you have permanently left the United States or changed your status within the United States, please complete the Departure Notification Form on My OIS so we can complete your SEVIS record.

Whatever your future plans may be, please log-in to My OIS and update your contact information to include your non-Pitt email address since your Pitt email address will be deactivated shortly after you graduate.

If you have any questions, please contact OIS.

Thank you for choosing to be a member of the international Pitt community and good luck in the future!
EARTH DAY: APRIL 22, 2013

Celebrated in over 192 countries each year, Earth Day is a day on which events are held to demonstrate support for environmental protection.

The celebration started in the year 1970 as a way for grassroots support of environmental reform.

The day is celebrated in many ways from simply getting out in nature and celebrating the beauty and resources available in a city park, participating in a litter clean up, or even educational opportunities for community members.

For a list of Earth Day Activities in Pittsburgh, visit these websites: Pittsburgh CitiParks Earth Day Celebration and Greener Pittsburgh Events Calendar (scroll down to April 20th).

Earth Day is also coordinated by the Earth Day Network, an organization which works with over 22,000 partners to broaden, diversify, and mobilize the environmental movement. Individuals can learn about important environmental issues, find ways to get involved and see what past Earth Day celebrations involved.

Pitt has several environmental organizations, several of these organizations are featured in the next few pages, but more can be found here: http://www.pittenvironmental.org/. In addition, Pitt is actively competing in Recyclemania, a (friendly) competition to help colleges and universities reduce their levels of waste on campus. Schools are ranked by the amount of trash and recycling they report each week of the 8 week competition. The top ranked schools win prizes of recognition for their efforts, including the coveted “Travelling Trophy” made of recycled materials.
Free the Planet (FTP) is a student environmental organization at the University of Pittsburgh working on campus and in the community to foster awareness about important environmental issues while taking action to resolve them. FTP’s primary goal is to creatively instill a passion for sustainable, environmentally friendly, and healthy living in Pitt’s student body and beyond. FTP regularly organizes educational events, community service, and various action-based campaigns to accomplish this goal.

FTP meetings are held every Wednesday at 9:00 PM in 105 David Lawrence Hall on the University of Pittsburgh campus. For more information, contact freetheplanetmail@gmail.com or visit http://www.pittenvironmental.org/groups/ftp/. There are also some pictures from past events they had this year.

Upcoming Events:

FTP’s next event is the Freecycle Flea Market, Wednesday April 3rd on the WPU lawn from 12 - 4. It’s for students to bring old clothes, accessories, dorm supplies or other reusable items and swap with other students for free!

The 6th Annual Student Sustainability Symposium is Friday, April 12th 9am to 3pm in the WPU ballroom. Students and student organizations present projects focused on greening Pitt's campus. There will be an administrative panel and eco-jobs panel focused on sustainability as well a "Sustain-a-bowl" featuring student poster sessions and environmental education booths built by Pitt students. Free lunch will be provided by Chipotle!

Thursday, April 18th is the Earth Day Extravaganza hosted on the WPU lawn from 12pm to 2pm. There will be different environmental student organizations and local farmers there to talk about the importance of sustainability. There will also be free food and raffle prizes!
PRESIDENT
Collette Pearson

PURPOSE
Students for Sustainability is a recently created group which aims to actively cause environmental and sustainable change on and around the Pitt campus. It focuses on tangible projects that are discovered though all members, not just those in leadership positions. It creates an outlet for students interested in environmental sustainability to voice their opinions, take on existing projects, and bring new projects to the group in order to make a positive, green impact on the University and the city of Pittsburgh as a whole.

CURRENT PROJECTS
Our main projects currently consist of working with the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy to create walking/biking tours through the Panther Hollow Watershed to bring watershed and runoff awareness to the community in an interactive, hand on method. We are also assisting in research to discover alternatives for the salt used by the city, identify plants that can tolerate high salinity levels to be placed by roads, and the impact of certain plants on runoff control. All of these projects are meant to aid the PPC in their watershed restoration projects, and to serve as an example for the rest of the city in terms of other watershed restoration projects. We are also working on making Pitt a nationally recognized Tree Campus.

UPCOMING EVENTS
We will be participating in the Schenley Park tree planting event hosted by the PPC on April 7th from 12:00 to 4:00. You can register for this event on www.pittsburghparks.org.

We will have a table and presentation on our projects at the Student Sustainability Symposium on April 12th from 9:00 to 3:00 in the William Pitt Union Ballroom. We will have a sign up sheet for anyone interested in joining the group.

Grads Students, Visiting Scholars and Dependents

EXPERIENCE AMERICA: AMERICAN BASEBALL
April 4, 2013 12-1 pm
Dining Room A 1st Floor, William Pitt Union
Come enjoy Pizza, Pop, Cracker Jacks, & Bubble Gum!
Register at www.eventbrite.com/event/5060993568#
Family Activities in Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh is one of the most family friendly cities in the United States. Many of the Pittsburgh’s best attractions are enjoyed by people of all ages, but here are a variety of activities (both well and less known) that your family can explore together.

CARNegie SCIENCE CENTER (North Shore of Pittsburgh)

The Carnegie Science Center has something for everyone! There are rotating exhibits on fun topics like carnivals, the world of Harry Potter, superheroes, and more. You can also tour a submarine (the U.S.S. Requin), play with kinetic energy at the Highmark Sportworks, see one of the largest miniature railroad villages in the country, or enjoy the full Omnimax movie experience.

SEWICKLEY HEIGHTS BOROUGH PARK (Sewickley Heights)

Sewickley Heights Borough Park is one of the largest off-the-lease dog parks in the Pittsburgh area. There are miles of trails and several open field areas where dogs can play. If you don’t have a dog, but your son or daughter wants to play with one, there are plenty here to welcome them. Once you are done, you can drive into downtown Sewickley for coffee or lunch and then head to War Veteran’s Park for its phenomenal playground.

HOLLYWOOD THEATER (Dormont)

The Hollywood Theater is an independent movie theater that shows classic movies on a regular basis. They recently played Back to the Future and Groundhog Day, and they will be showing the musical Annie this month. In addition, every month they have one Sunday morning with Breakfast and a Movie. In this event, you will receive a light catered breakfast and see a classic movie. All ages are welcome!

DELUCA’S RESTAURANT (Strip District)

Enjoy a plate piled sky-high with chocolate chip pancakes, ice cream, strawberries, and whipped cream! Famous for its
Family Activities in Pittsburgh

dessert pancakes, DeLuca’s Restaurant is a Pittsburgh favorite. This diner has been featured on several television food programs and can have a line down the street on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Make sure to arrive early, have cash, and be hungry!

PNC PARK (North Shore of Pittsburgh)

You can learn more about baseball at the April Experience America event, then you can see it for yourself at the most beautiful baseball park in the country. PNC Park has a stunning view of the Pittsburgh skyline, comfortable seats, and plenty of space for your family to spread out and, if need be, run around. There are many family friendly events during the game, like the infamous Pierogies Race and dancing with the Pirates’ Parrot. Even if members of your family bring a book to read during the game, they will love being outdoors with the city displayed in front of them!

DEPENDABLE DRIVE-IN (Moon Township)

Open all 12 months of year, the Dependable Drive-in is the perfect choice for families with young children who aren’t the best at being quiet in a regular theater. You can let your little ones sleep in the back or talk as much as you want in the privacy of your own car. Every movie is shown as a double feature, so you also get two movies for the price of one. In the summer, you can roll your windows down, bring your lawn chairs, or open your hatchback to have a more outdoors movie experience.

These are only a few suggestions and if there is somewhere that your family loves to go that we have not included, please email OIS and let us know your family’s favorite places!
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April

4th – **Experience America** event!

6th – Fall term open enrollment begins

12th – Richard Sherman’s Birthday!

15th – Taxes due by today to IRS

22nd – Earth Day

22nd – 27th – Finals Week

28th – Residence halls close

May

5th – Pittsburgh Marathon Event, Cinco de Mayo, & Kati Von Lehman’s Birthday!

12th – Mother’s Day

13th – Summer classes start

15th – Summer 4 & 6 week session add/drop date

17th – Summer add/drop date

27th – Memorial Day

ONGOING

Every Friday OIS hosts a session on Optional Practical Training (OPT) from 2PM—3PM. You can register for the OPT Info Session

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