



OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL SERVICES

University Center for International Studies
University of Pittsburgh

Enrollment Requirements for F-1 & J-1 International Students

The federal government has specific enrollment requirements for students in F-1 and J-1 status. You must understand these requirements as you start, continue, and plan to finish your academic program.

Definition of “full-time” enrollment at Pitt:

Undergraduate:	12 credits, or co-op enrollment
Graduate / Professional:	9 credits, co-op enrollment, or full-time dissertation (FTD)

Basic requirements:

- Must be enrolled full-time in your first term of study
- Must be enrolled full-time each Fall and Spring term, unless it is your final term (*see below*)
- No enrollment requirements for Summer term, *unless* summer is your last term, or *if* your academic program requires it

Final term requirements (applicable to Fall, Spring, & Summer terms):

- Must be enrolled at Pitt during your final term
- Cannot exceed the limits on online credits (*see below*)
- Part-time enrollment is possible after receiving [OIS approval](#) (*see below*)
 - **Note:** if you only enroll in one course for your final term, it cannot be an online course
- If you will enroll for a portion of your final term, then OIS will shorten your I-20 / DS-2019 end date to the last day of classes for that portion of the term, for example:
 - Students who enroll in the 1st 6 week session of the Summer term
 - Katz Graduate School of Business students who enroll in the 1st 8 week session of a term
- If you complete your program requirements *before* the end date that is currently listed on your I-20 or DS-2019, OIS will shorten your I-20 or DS-2019 to the end date of your final term / session

Online credits:

- Only **3** online credits can count toward a student’s full-time enrollment each term
 - Examples of students **maintaining** immigration status with online credits:
 - A graduate student with 3 online credits out of 9 total credits
 - An undergraduate student with 3 online credits out of 12 total credits
 - Examples of students **violating** immigration status with online credits:
 - A graduate student with 6 online credits out of 9 total credits
 - An undergraduate student with 6 online credits out of 12 total credits
- *Hybrid* courses are considered as “in-person” courses, since there is a physical presence requirement

Acceptable reasons to drop below full-time enrollment:

- OIS can authorize a student to drop below full-time enrollment for very specific reasons.
- OIS authorization must take place *before* the student withdraws from the course(s):

Reason:	Eligible Term:
Illness or Medical Condition	Any term
To Complete Course of Study in Current Term	Final term only
Unfamiliarity with American Teaching Methods*	First term only
Initial Difficulty with Reading Requirements*	First term only
Initial Difficulty with the English Language*	First term only
Improper Course Level Placement*	First term only

* **Note:** contact your school’s [Immigration Specialist](#) for more information about these options

If you have questions about enrollment while in F-1 or J-1 student status, please contact your school’s [Immigration Specialist](#).