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):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason:</th>
<th>Eligible Term:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Illness or Medical Condition</td>
<td>Any term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Complete Course of Study in Current Term</td>
<td>Final term only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unfamiliarity with American Teaching Methods*</td>
<td>First term only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial Difficulty with Reading Requirements*</td>
<td>First term only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial Difficulty with the English Language*</td>
<td>First term only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improper Course Level Placement*</td>
<td>First term only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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* **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.