

THE MONTHLY ADVISOR

OISS Newsletter for Campus Partners



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Spring 2016 Welcome Message

Welcome partners to spring semester. We have detailed in this newsletter important immigration related information to help guide you with your students in F or J visa status. We are here to serve you and your F/J students with immigration issues. We encourage you to contact OISS with questions.

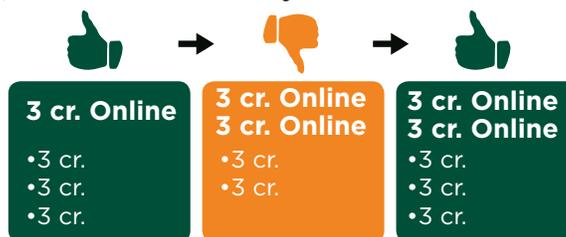
Enrollment Requirements:

U.S. Immigration Regulations require F-1/J-1 students to enroll in classes each semester and maintain a full course of study. Failure to enroll in a full course of study may result in termination of the immigration status.

Undergraduate	12 Credits	Assistantship
MA	9 Credits	6 Credits
PhD	6 Credits	3 Credits

Reduced Course Load (RCL): Students who cannot or will not meet the full-time enrollment, must apply for a reduced course load. U.S immigration regulations severely limit a student's ability to be less than full-time, but it may be allowed under certain circumstances. OISS encourages students to apply for a reduced course load BEFORE they enroll less than full-time. Unfortunately, the current MSU system allows student to add/drop courses freely. All students must enroll full-time by January 15th. Students who will not be full-time by January 15th, must provide a completed RCL form. Students who do not provide a completed RCL form will be terminated on February 5th. Our office must report failure to enroll full-time to the Department of Homeland Security. Please note, when signing the RCL form, you are confirming that you have met with the student and advised regarding their academic options. We require students to meet with their academic advisors as an important step to gain better understanding of their academic progress and available academic options.

Online Course Policy: Regulations require that only ONE online class per semester can count toward the minimum number of credits needed for full-time enrollment. For example, if an undergraduate student is registered for 12 credits, he is allowed to be enrolled in only ONE online course. If a student is registered for more than 12 credits, then ONE online course per the first 12 credits AND any additional credits above 12 credits can be online. Hybrid courses are not considered online. During the last semester, (including summer) students must be registered in at least ONE non-online class. Last semester cannot be online classes only, even if it is the only class needed.



TERMINOLOGY

F-1 Student: International students who are admitted, enrolled full-time in a U.S. educational institutions or language training programs and holding a valid I-20.

F-2 Student: The spouse and unmarried children under the age of 21 of an F-1 student. F-2 status is dependent on the F-1 student maintaining his/her status.

For more information on advising international students, please visit [our website](#). If you wish to be added to this Listserv, email adawe@msu.edu