



***Welcome,
International Students!***

Spring 2021

***Quick Review of
F-1 Immigration
Concepts***

Maintain Your Status!

- Register full-time
- Keep I-20 current
- Follow employment guidelines closely
- Don't break U.S. laws
- Keep in touch with the ISSS Office

Maintaining your F-1 Status: Course Registration

- You have to be registered at UMBC!
- Optional to register during Summer and Winter breaks - not required
- Must be registered “full time” during Fall and Spring semesters – we check!
- May take a class at another campus also (must speak with academic advisor first)

Definition of “Full-Time Enrollment” at UMBC

- Undergraduate students:
 - **12** credit hours minimum Fall and Spring semester
- Graduate Students:
 - **9** credits per semester in fall and spring semester.
 - Full-Time graduate assistants should register for at least 4 academic credits
 - Part-Time graduate assistants should register for at least 6 academic credits

“Reduced Course Load”

- Few exceptions to the full-time enrollment requirement:
 - Medical (physical or mental health challenges)
 - Academic (can only be approved once):
 - First Semester Academic Difficulty (English language, reading requirements, adjustment challenges)
 - “Improper Course Placement”
- MUST be approved by ISSS before dropping below full-time

Summary of F-1 Work Options

- On-campus work (immediate)
- Off-campus work:
 - CPT (after 2 semesters in the US)
 - OPT (after graduation)
 - STEM OPT Extension

How can you lose your Status?

- If you do not register for a full course load
- If you let your I-20 end date expire
- If you work off-campus without authorization
- If you break the law and are arrested for more than a minor offense

Remember...

Your immigration status is your responsibility!

We are here to assist you in maintaining it
so that your experience in the US is
enjoyable and fruitful.



Questions?

Virtual Advising Appointments Available



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F-1 International Student Advisers:

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