

Maintenance of Status:

To maintain your F-1 status, you must:

1. Maintain a valid passport.
2. Attend the school you are authorized to attend.
3. Unless otherwise approved, enroll in a full course of study.
 - A. Undergraduate = At least 12 credit hours per semester.
 - B. Graduate = At least 9 credit hours semester.
4. Unless otherwise approved, limit online classes to three credit hours per semester.
5. Apply for extension of program 30 days before the expiration date on your current I-20.
6. Follow USCIS procedures for changing from one program or education level to another.
7. Follow USCIS procedures for transferring from one school to another.
8. Limit on-campus employment to 20 hours per week, while school is in session.
9. Do not engage in off-campus employment without authorization.
10. Report a change of your name, address, or phone number to the Office of International Student Services.
11. Report to the Office of International Student Services within the first week of the commencement of classes for registration in SEVIS.
12. Make normal progress towards completing your course of study.
13. If you plan to graduate before the end date specified on your I-20, you must inform the Office of International Student Services so that this information can be updated in SEVIS.



Maintenance of Status Notes:

*It is your responsibility to maintain legal F1 status. If you fail to maintain status for any reason, it is your responsibility to report to the Office of International Student Services so that we may advise you accordingly.

*If you have a medical reason permitting you to be enrolled in less than a full course load if you are attending your last semester, you must see the Office of International Student Services for permission. This must be done prior to the beginning of the semester.

*Please make sure that you consult with your academic advisor regarding Directed Research and/or Thesis courses. You are permitted to engage in no more than six hours of Thesis for your degree.

*Unless otherwise permitted, no more than one online course or 3 credit hour per semester can be counted towards a full course of study requirements.

*If you plan to visit another country, while you are a student at MSU, please make sure to obtain the necessary visa for that country or check if your country is exempt from that requirement.

*If you plan to leave the United States and return while you are a student here, you must have your I-20 endorsed by Clive Liew, Director of International Student Services / SEVIS. A signed I-20 is the only way you will be allowed to return to the United States.

*Make sure that you follow the proper procedures before engaging in specific activities that are governed by specific federal and in-house regulations / policies. Some of these activities, but are not limited to, are:

Curriculum Practical Training (CPT)

Optional Practical Training (OPT)

Study Abroad Programs

Off-campus employment

*If you are unsure of the regulations governing any of the activities for which you intend to participate in, please call the Office of International Student Services at 606-783-2096 or email Clive Liew c.liew@moreheadstate before engaging in any of these activities.