



Immigration Regulations

How to Maintain Your F-1 Student Visa Status*

(*This document is meant to be a basic summary only. Please consult the international student advisor if you have questions.)

Very Important Documents

- Passport
- I-94
- I-20
- Be extra careful with your documents!!

Maintain a Valid Passport

- Check the expiration to insure your passport is valid for at least 6 months into the future.
- 3 months prior to expiration, call your home country embassy for info on how to extend the passport in the U.S.
- Do **not** send your original I-94 or I-20 to the embassy.

Maintain a Valid I-20

- Your I-20, item #5 says the expected date of completing your studies.
- Even if your visa expires, you may stay in the United States. The completion date listed on your I-20 allows you to stay. (The D/S stamp = "duration of stay.")
- If you leave the country and your visa has expired, you must get a new visa before you re-enter the U.S.

Maintain Full-Time Enrollment

- Full-time enrollment for F-1 students at VU is a minimum of 12 credit hours each semester.
- Get permission BEFORE dropping below required minimum hours.
- If you drop below 12 credit hours without permission, you will lose your visa status. This means you must either re-apply with U.S. Immigration (very expensive!) or leave the country.
- You must have a valid academic reason plus academic advisor approval, and approval from the International Student Advisor.
- If it is a medical reason, a doctor's letter is required.

Make Timely Progress in the Degree Listed on the I-20

- Each semester (fall and spring, not summer) you must be enrolled full-time (12 credit hours) in classes which are required for the completion of the degree listed on the I-20.

No Unauthorized Work

- International students are allowed to work **on-campus** only (see the advisor for exceptions to this).
- There are a limited number of jobs on campus (don't rely on work to pay your school bill or for spending money).
- No more than 20 hours per week during school.
- No more than 40 hours per week during school break time (i.e. summer).

Obtain a Travel Signature Before Traveling Outside the U.S.

- Request travel signature at least 5 business days in advance.
- The travel signature is valid for one year.

Report Address Changes

- Students must report a change of address to the International Student Advisor within 10 days.
- VU will report address changes to U.S.C.I.S.
- This is for on-campus dorm changes or off campus addresses.

Have questions? Please contact us at:

Vincennes University
Office of International Student Affairs
1002 N. 1st Street
Vincennes, IN 47591
Email: dwhitmer@vinu.edu
Office Phone: (812) 888-4301
Office Fax: (812) 888-5572