

Advising International Students: Immigration Concerns

Requirements of International Students (F-1 and J-1 visa holders)

International students must adhere to a number of responsibilities to maintain F-1 and J-1 status. These include but are not limited to:

- **Full time enrollment** – International students must register for a full-time course of study each term. At Lawrence, full time is defined as 15 units per term.
- **Full time exception:** Pre-authorization from International Student Services (ISS) and additional signed paperwork from Center for Academic Success must be completed before the withdrawal to avoid violating student status resulting in immigration sanctions. The form is found at: <http://go.lawrence.edu/10677>. Allowable exceptions for dropping below full time include:
 - **Medical reasons:**
 - Verified temporary medical condition that requires a reduced course load
 - **Academic Reasons:** (Permitted with pre-authorization for only 1 term during their program.)
 - First year students: Initial difficulty with English, reading requirements or American teaching methods
 - Upper class students: Improper course placement
 - **Final term of study** (Permitted only for students who will complete their program in the current term)
 - It is the final term of study and full time is not needed to meet degree requirements.
- **Employment limitations:** International students cannot work in any capacity without specific authorization to do so. Many students are authorized to work on campus, however, work off-campus requires additional pre-authorization by ISS or USCIS BEFORE the employment start date. Students who wish to complete an internship or off campus work must consult with ISS 1-3 months in advance of their start date. Comprehensive information about working as an international student is available at the ISS website: <http://go.lawrence.edu/10676>
- **Personal information:** Students must keep all personal information (name, U.S. address, home address, dependent information) up to date. Changes must be reported to ISS within 10 days of the change.
- **Valid documents:** Passports and other immigration documents, such as I-20 or DS-2019 must remain valid at all times. Students must work with ISS to extend or shorten their immigration documents if they will complete their program sooner or later than originally anticipated.

Faculty and Staff webpage for supporting international students: <http://go.lawrence.edu/10754>

