

F-1 students must register for a full course of study (at least 12 credit hours) every Fall and Spring semester, with at least 9 credits in-person or blended/hybrid, to maintain F-1 status.

There are a few instances in which an F-1 student may be eligible for a reduced course load:

1. **Academic Difficulty** due to one of the following reasons (first semester Associate degree students only):
 - a. Improper course level placement
 - b. Unfamiliarity with U.S. teaching methods

2. **Illness or Medical Condition**
 - a. Cannot exceed 12 months of this authorization at each program level (ex: Associate)
 - b. To receive authorization, students must submit the **Medical Reduced Course Load form** (request this form from the International Student Advisor), filled and signed by one of the below professionals:
 - i. Medical Doctor
 - ii. Doctor of Osteopathy
 - iii. Licensed Clinical Psychologist

3. **To Complete Course of Study in Current Term**
 - a. Can be used by students in their very last semester of their program, if less than 12 credits are needed to complete the program

All reduced course load options require permission from the International Student Advisor in advance. **You may not drop below 12 credit hours without prior authorization for a reduced course load as documented on page 2 of your I-20.**

[Schedule an appointment](#) with the International Student Advisor to discuss eligibility for a reduced course load.