

# Maintaining your F-1 Status

As an F-1 student, it is your responsibility to maintain your F-1 status while studying in the US, and it is important that you understand F-1 rules and regulations.

Please reach out to the International Student Advisor with any questions regarding maintaining your F-1 status at [international@saintpaul.edu](mailto:international@saintpaul.edu) or 651-403-4470. You can also schedule an appointment through [Navigate](#).

For more information on maintaining your F-1 status, please visit the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Study in the States page: [studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students/maintaining-status](https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students/maintaining-status).

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## To maintain your F-1 status:

### 1. Register for a “full course of study” each Fall and Spring semester

- You must be enrolled in at least **12 credit hours\*** every Fall and Spring semester (there is no requirement for Summer enrollment) to maintain your F-1 status.
- Of the 12 credits required, at least 9 credits must be either on-campus *or* blended/hybrid credits.
- **You may not withdraw** below 12 credit hours during Fall and Spring semesters without prior reduced course load authorization as documented on Form I-20. **You may lose your F-1 status if you receive a W, FN, or FW grade that places you below 12 credit hours\*.**
  - Withdrawing from (W grade), *or* receiving FN (failure due to non-attendance) or FW (failure due to unofficial withdraw) grades are considered withdrawing in regard to your status. **FN and FW grades** can be given by instructors when a student fails to attend the first week of classes, misses too many classes during the semester, or fails to submit required assignments.

*\*Students in the English for Academic Purposes (EAP) Program at the high intermediate or advanced level must enroll in at least 18 credit hours every Fall and Spring semester while completing EAP courses.*

### 2. Pay tuition

- You must pay your tuition every semester in order to register for the next semester. If you do not pay your tuition bill, you will not be able to register for classes to maintain your F-1 status.

### 3. Purchase the mandatory Minnesota State health insurance every semester

- Minnesota State policy requires all F-1 international students to purchase the system-approved health insurance plan each semester to enroll in courses: [Undergraduate Admissions Policy Part 5, Subpart B, #2](#)
- Visit the Health Insurance section of the International Student Services webpage for more information.

#### **4. Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)**

- To maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), you must:
  - Earn a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher
  - Complete 67% or more of registered credits with earned grades of A, B, C, D, P or AU
- More information can be found here: [www.saintpaul.edu/student-services/Pages/Satisfactory-Academic-Progress.aspx](http://www.saintpaul.edu/student-services/Pages/Satisfactory-Academic-Progress.aspx)

#### **5. Have a valid passport always**

- You must have a valid passport at all times while in the US.
- If you need to renew your passport while in the US, you will need to search online for your country's nearest embassy location in the US.
- If you receive a new passport, you must submit a copy of this to International Student Services at [international@saintpaul.edu](mailto:international@saintpaul.edu).

#### **6. Update and report address changes**

- You must notify International Student Services of any change of address within 10 days of your move so this can be updated in SEVIS.
- To update your address, login to [eServices](#), click "Account Management", then "Name and Address Info". Click "Edit" to change your address. Email the International Student Advisor or [international@saintpaul.edu](mailto:international@saintpaul.edu) immediately after making this update.

#### **7. Adhere to F-1 employment regulations**

- **You cannot work off-campus** without prior approval from Saint Paul College or USCIS. Self-employment, working online/remotely for a company outside of the US, and most unpaid internships (and some volunteer work) are also considered work that requires authorization in federal F-1 regulations.

#### **8. Complete your program by the program end date on your I-20, or request an extension**

- There is a program end date on your Form I-20. If you are unable to complete your academic program (Associate degree) before this end date, it is your responsibility to request a program extension. Extensions may only be granted due to compelling academic reasons such as change of major, having taken pre-requisite courses, or documented illness.
- Meet with your Pathway Advisor regularly to ensure you're on track to complete your program.

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