



## F-1 Student Immigration Responsibilities Agreement

### MAINTAINING YOUR F-1 STATUS

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As an F-1 Student, you were admitted to the U.S. for “duration of status” (D/S). This means you are permitted to stay in the U.S. as long as you maintain your status by fulfilling the requirements pertaining to F-1 students. Please keep in mind that there is an important difference between an F-1 visa and F-1 status. The visa is a stamp or sticker placed in your passport by a U.S. Embassy or Consulate and is granted for entry purposes only. F-1 status is granted when you enter the U.S. and is regulated by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Even if your visa is valid, you can lose your legal F-1 status if you do not comply with immigration laws regulating your stay in the U.S. If you fail to maintain your legal status, you will need to apply for reinstatement, or in some cases, be forced to leave the country.

**PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CAREFULLY!**

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#### **Government Regulations You Must Follow in Order to Maintain Your Legal F-1 Status:**

1. Maintain a valid passport at all times. Your passport should be valid for six months into the future.
2. Attend the college or university you are authorized to attend as noted on your I-20. You must get permission from the International Student Advisor (ISA) and your academic department before you take any coursework outside Marymount University (MU).
3. Complete an official immigration transfer whenever you change educational institutions. An immigration transfer must be completed within 15 days of the start date on your I-20. (NOTE: An immigration transfer is not complete until you register for full-time classes at the new school, and it is noted that your transfer has been completed on your new school’s I-20).
4. Enroll in and complete a full course of study during fall and spring semesters (12 credits per semester for an undergraduate student and 9 credits per semester for a graduate student). You **MUST** consult an ISA before you consider dropping a course, changing a course from credit to audit, or discontinuing attendance or withdrawing from all courses in a semester. **If you become part-time without prior permission from a DSO, you will fail to maintain your F-1 status. This means that you would become illegal. You would need to appeal to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for Reinstatement to F-1 or leave the U.S.**
5. You may not use more than 3 credits of online or distance course work to count toward your full-time status each semester. (No more than 3 of 12 credits as an undergraduate and no more than 3 of 9 credits as a graduate student.)
6. You are required by law to carry your I-94 on you while you are in the United States in F-1 status.
7. On-campus employment is permitted part-time during fall and spring semester and full-time during winter and summer breaks for students maintaining F-1 status. Off-campus employment authorization may be possible after a student holds valid F-1 status and has been full-time for one academic year. Off-campus work authorization must be approved by either the ISA or the DHS before employment begins. A student who engages in off campus work without prior authorization from an ISA or DHS has violated their status.

