

F-1 Student Immigration Responsibilities Agreement

MAINTAINING YOUR F-1 STATUS

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!**

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.

- 8. Before you travel outside the U.S. with the intention of re-entering, you must have a DSO (International Student Advisor) endorse the back of your I-20. Each signature is valid for one year. Please see the ISA at least 2 weeks before traveling.
- 9. Report changes of address, phone number, and email in writing, to MU within 10 days of the move by notifying your ISA and the Office of Registrar. Please also keep the ISA informed of changes to your address in your home country or country of permanent residency immediately.
- 10. Apply in advance for an extension of your program if you feel you cannot complete your degree by the ending date listed on your I-20.
- 11. Notify the ISA within 10 days of changing your major and request a new I-20 to reflect the major change.
- 12. Obtain a new I-20 whenever you make a change in degree levels, and make sure your degree level change is processed within 15 days of the start of your new program (Bachelor's to a Master's degree, etc).
- 13. Notify the ISA immediately if you decide to transfer or discontinue your studies, or if you are suspended or dismissed by the University for any reason.
- 14. F-2 spouses and dependents may engage in study at an SEVP-certified school in the United States as long as they are enrolled in less than a full course of study at the post-secondary level. Part-time study that is recreational or vocational in nature is permitted. F-2 spouses and dependents may change status to F-1 if they wish to study full-time at the post-secondary level. F-2 dependents may study full-time at the secondary level.

Important Reminders:

- All students that are registered full-time must carry Marymount's Health Insurance or provide proof of comparable coverage <u>EACH</u> academic year. This rule also applies to students on Government Scholarships. If you already have other insurance, you must submit an online waiver through the Student Health Center during the waiver period. A waiver must be submitted every academic year.
- It is important that you read and understand Marymount University's Academic Integrity Policy.

I have read the statements about maintaining my F-1 status and understand that I must abide by these regulations in order to remain in legal status while studying at MU.	
Print Name Last (family)	First
Signature	Date

Did You Attend International Student Orientation? ¹Yes ¹No