

Advising F1 International Students

International, F1, students have many regulations and requirements that they must meet to stay in the United States. As F1 students they are supposed to know these rules, but advisors may be able to help ensure students stay in status. Everything below are rules and processes to simply keep in mind while advising F1 students because ultimately it is their responsibility to ensure they stay within regulations not their advisors'.

If you are advising a student and in doubt of anything please feel free to call International Student Services, 5149, or send the student to our office.

We have more detailed information on our [Current Students](#) page if you want to learn more or a student has questions about the requirements and regulations,

F1 Regulations

Enrollment

- International students must maintain a full time course load:
 - Undergraduate - 12 credit hours
 - Graduate – 6 credit hours
 - Exceptions are: difficulties the first semester, medical issues, or limited classes left during the student's last semester
 - If any of these exceptions are met the student needs to fill out the [Reduced Enrollment](#) form
- Only one online class can be used to count toward maintaining full time status
 - **Undergraduate students:** For 12 credit hours only one course can be online. This meets the student's 12 full time hours and beyond this the student can enroll in more online classes.
 - **Graduate Students:** For 6 credit hours only one course can be online. This meets the student's 6 full time hours, and beyond this the student can enroll in more online classes.
- Students must notify our office if they change majors
- Students have an "end date" on their I-20, Immigration document, which is when they should graduate. If they are not graduating on time, within 4 years of starting at SAU, then they need to complete the [Program Extension Request](#) form before that end date.

Internships

- Students must file for Curricular Practical Training (CPT) if they want to have an internship.
 - If a student wants to enroll for an internship course send them to ISS, but first see if these requirements are met:
 - Student has been enrolled for one academic year, exceptions for graduates
 - Internship must be a requirement or an elective of the student's major
 - Employment must be related to major
- The student will bring the [Request for CPT](#) form to their advisor as part of the application process for CPT.