

HOW TO STAY “IN STATUS” & PREVENT TERMINATION

TO STAY IN STATUS YOU MUST:

To maintain status you must follow the terms and conditions of your F-1 visa. You must:

- Report to the DSO (Designated School Official) no later than 30 days after the program start date and each semester after
- Pursue a full course of study at the school listed on the I-20 during every academic semester unless authorized for under-enrollment by a DSO. The law requires: **SEE CHART FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION REGARDING ENROLLMENT GUIDELINES**
- Make normal progress towards completion of your degree program
- Must have an I-20 with VALID program dates (That means you will FINISH your studies by the END DATE on your I-20 or DS-2019 and NO LATER). If you know that you will not finish your studies by your program end date, you MUST REQUEST AN EXTENSION BEFORE YOUR I-20 EXPIRES. You should keep all prior I-20s. If you change education levels, programs of study or transfer to a new school, YOU MUST CONTACT US TO UPDATE YOUR I-20.
- Keep a valid passport by requesting a new one before the old one expires; keep your old passport for your records
- AFTER you graduate/finish your program you will enter your grace period, you have 60 days (F visas) and 30 days (J visas) to do one of the following: apply for OPT, transfer to another school, start a new program at UMKC, return home, change visa status, travel within the US.
- Report any change of address, name, marital status or visa type to ISAO within 10 days of the change
- If you have been arrested or accused of criminal activity, you must tell ISAO
- Do not work without authorization (CPT authorization, valid EAD card, etc.)
- If you travel outside of the US, you must have a valid travel endorsement (signature on the 2nd page of your I-20) and will need a valid visa to return
- Must maintain health insurance for the entirety of your program. You are automatically enrolled in AETNA’s student plan if you are an F-1 or J-1 student and the fees will automatically appear on your bill at the cashier’s office. Your card should arrive in the mail within one month. DEPENDENTS must be covered as well.

YOUR VISA DOES NOT KEEP YOU “IN LAWFUL STATUS”

IT IS THE START & END DATES ON YOUR I-20/DS-2019 THAT KEEP YOU IN STATUS

Which means, if your I-20 or DS-2019 expires, you are NOT in status.

ALWAYS KNOW THE END DATE ON YOUR I-20/DS-2019

The end date is the expiration date.

If your I-20/DS-2019 expires, you cannot enroll in classes.

YOU WILL NEED TO LEAVE THE U.S.

REQUIRED ENROLLMENT

DURING A FALL/SPRING SEMESTER:

- **ALI students:** Enroll in at least 12 credit hours. All 12 must be in the classroom, NOT online.
- **Undergraduate students:** Enroll in at least 12 credit hours
 - At least 9 credit hours must be in the classroom, only 3 credit hours can be online
- **Graduate students WITH a GRA/GA/GTA:** Enroll in at least 6 credit hours
 - At least 3 credit hours must be in the classroom, only 3 credit hours can be online
- **Graduate students WITHOUT a GRA/GA/GTA:** Enroll in at least 9 credit hours
 - At least 6 credit hours must be in the classroom, only 3 credit hours can be online

DURING A SUMMER SEMESTER:

- **Continuing/Returning students** (meaning it is not your first semester): 0 credit hours. Summer is not required
- **NEW UMKC students (if this is your first semester at UMKC):**
 - **ALI students:** Enroll in at least 6 credit hours. All 6 must be in the classroom, NOT online.
 - **Undergraduate students:** Enroll in at least 6 credit hours
 - At least 4 credit hours must be in the classroom, only 2 credit hours can be online
 - **Graduate students:** Enroll in at least 4 credit hours
 - At least 3 credit hours must be in the classroom, only 1 credit hours can be online

WHAT DO I DO IF I'M UNDER-ENROLLED?

ENROLL CORRECTLY OR SUBMIT A FULL-TIME EQUIVALENCY FORM (FTE)

The FTE can be found here: <https://info.umkc.edu/ISAO/current-students/international-advising/>

ENROLLMENT GUIDELINES CHART

If you are a/an:	<u>You are required to enroll in a least:</u>	If you <u>ARE</u> registered for that amount, you must take the following action(s):	If you <u>ARE NOT</u> enrolled in the minimum amount then you are considered UNDER-ENROLLED and you must take the following action:
Undergraduate Student	12 credit hours	None	Register for more credits. <i>OR</i> Submit a completed FTE form. Please review the form for eligibility requirements.
Masters or PhD Student <u>without</u> an assistantship who has not finished all formal coursework nor taken your comprehensive exam	9 credit hours	None	Register for more credits. <i>OR</i> Submit a completed FTE form. Please review the form for eligibility requirements.
Masters or PhD Student with an assistantship	6 credit hours	Submit a completed FTE form and GTA/GRA offer letter	Register for more credits. <i>OR</i> Submit a completed FTE form for a valid reason <u>OTHER THAN</u> Graduate Assistantship
PhD Student who has completed all formal coursework (only thesis/dissertation/research left)	1 credit hour	Submit a completed FTE form. <i>Please review the form for eligibility requirements.</i>	Register for more credits.