



Office of International Students and Scholars Services (OISS)

Full Course Load Expectation

All F-1 and J-1 students must be enrolled in a full-time course load every fall and spring semester they are enrolled at HIU. Full-time enrollment is a requirement for properly maintaining F-1/J-1 student visa status. Please note: a full course of study is not required during the summer or winter session. Failure to enroll full-time within 30 days of the first day of classes or dropping below full-time prior to receiving authorization from OISS will lead to termination of your SEVIS record and the loss of your valid status in the U.S.

To be considered full-time at HIU, all F-1 and J-1 students must register for at least **9 credits/ three classes** every fall and spring semester they are enrolled.

Exceptions to Full-time Enrollment

There are a few exceptions to the full course of study requirement that students must apply for, and OISS must authorize, before dropping below full-time enrollment. These are called "Reduced Course Load" authorizations or "RCLs" for short. There are three categories of RCLs: medical, final term of study, and academic difficulty during the first term of study. If a student believes they may qualify for an RCL, they should reach out to OISS.

Restrictions on Online Enrollment

A maximum of three (3) online/Internet-based credits can count towards your full-time enrollment requirement. Note that immigration regulations and guidance differ on what constitutes an "online" class for F-1 students vs. for J-1 students.

F-1: Any course other than one coded as "in-person" or "hybrid" is considered online.

J-1: Any course other than one coded as "in-person" is considered online.

Note:

- Student enrolled in 9 in-person or hybrid credits: **Acceptable.**
- Student enrolled in 6 in-person or hybrid credits and 3 online credits: **Acceptable.**
- Student enrolled in 3 in-person or hybrid credits and 6 online credits: **Not acceptable** (insufficient in-person enrollment).
- Student enrolled in 3 in-person or hybrid credits and 3 online credits: **Not acceptable** (insufficient total enrollment).

Note:

- Ph.D. students should consult with their academic advisor regarding maintaining full-time enrollment during all stages of the Ph.D. program.
- Independent Studies are considered in-person courses.