



## **Office of International Students and Scholars Services (OISS)**

### Maintaining F-1 Status Overview

To maintain your valid non-immigrant F-1 status, you must have:

- An unexpired passport that at all times during your stay in the U.S.
- A valid Form I-20 with a current travel signature
- A full-time course load (9 credits, 3 of which can be fully online) in each required semester of study.
- No more than 20 hours per week of on-campus work during an enrolled term
- OPT or CPT authorization from a DSO for any work off-campus
- Proper transfer, extension, or change of program

### Requirements for Maintaining F-1 Status

- Ensure that Hartford International University (HIU) is listed on your F-1 visa stamp in your passport and on your Form I-20.
- Complete the [F-1/J-1 Check-in Form](#) no later than 30 days after the program start date, and within 30 days of the start date of each academic term.
- Pursue a full course of study at HIU during every academic term except during official school breaks, or unless approved under a specific exception, in advance, by OISS.
- Make normal progress towards your degree by completing studies on or before the expiration of the program completion date on your Form I-20.
- Keep your Form I-20 valid by following proper procedures for extension of stay, change in educational levels, change in programs of study or transfer of schools.
- Report a change of address to OISS within 10 days of the change, so that your SEVIS record can be updated.
- Do not work off-campus, unless specifically authorized by OISS. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach to OISS.
- Limit on-campus employment to 20 hours per week during an enrolled term. Students may only work more than 20 hours per week during official school breaks.
- Abide by the unemployment rules and reporting requirements while on post-completion or pre-completion Optional Practical Training (OPT).
- Keep your passport valid. If your passport will expire in six months, please reach out to your embassy/consulate within the U.S. for renewal.
- Be aware of your grace periods. You have a 60-day grace period at the end of your F-1 program and the end of your OPT. You must leave the US before the end of your grace period. You also have a 30-day grace period before the start of your program. You may enter the US during this time.

**Failure to comply with any of the above-referenced rules can result in the loss of your F-1 immigration status and possibly the accrual of unlawful presence.** The Department of Homeland Security has more information on maintaining status on its [Study in the States website](#).