Enrollment Requirements

For most students, the academic year is fall and winter terms, while the spring/summer is considered the vacation term. During the academic year, in general, the minimum full-time enrollment for international students is as follows:

- Undergraduate students: 12 credit hours
- Graduate students: 8 credit hours
- Graduate student assistants (GSIs or GSRAs): 6 credit hours

**Note:** You must be registered full-time during your first term of admission. If admitted to begin spring/summer, you must be full-time during that first spring/summer term.

During the academic year, international students in F-1 or J-1 non-immigrant status must either be:
- Enrolled full-time or receive permission from the U-M International Center for a reduced course load [1] or a full-time exception [2].
- Courses that you visit or audit do not count towards full-time enrollment.

The deadline for meeting the full-time registration requirement is the end of the U-M Drop/Add period [3].

If you are not registered full-time by the deadline, your SEVIS record will be terminated and you will lose your F-1/J-1 status. There is no grace period to remain in the U.S. following status termination.

Pass/Fail classes count towards full-time enrollment.

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**Exceptions to Full-Time Enrollment Requirements**

In some cases, international students may receive permission from the U-M International Center to drop below full-time enrollment.

- **Reduced course load** [1] (F-1/J-1)
- **Full-time equivalency for graduate students** [2] (F-1/J-1)
- **Concurrent enrollment** [4] (F-1)
- **Guest Student Information** [5] (F-1/J-1)
- **Rackham Grace Period** [6] (F-1/J-1)

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**Source URL:** https://internationalcenter.umich.edu/students/enrollment-requirements

**Links**

[1] https://internationalcenter.umich.edu/students/reduced-course-load
[2] https://internationalcenter.umich.edu/students/fulltime-equivalency-phd
[4] https://internationalcenter.umich.edu/students/concurrent-enrollment-f1
[5] https://internationalcenter.umich.edu/students/guest
[6] https://internationalcenter.umich.edu/students/rackham-grace-period