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 or a full-time exception.

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

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.

Courses that you visit or audit do not count towards full-time enrollment.

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 (F-1/J-1)
- Full-time equivalency for graduate students (F-1/J-1)
- Concurrent enrollment (F-1)
- Guest Student Information (F-1/J-1)
- Rackham Grace Period (F-1/J-1)
- Rackham Grace Period - Special COVID-19 procedures (F-1/J-1)

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  
[7] https://internationalcenter.umich.edu/students/rackham-grace-period-covid-19