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].

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.

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** [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)
- **Rackham Grace Period - Special COVID-19 procedures** [7] (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