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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Type</th>
<th>Minimum Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate students</td>
<td>12 credit hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate students</td>
<td>8 credit hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate student assistants (GSIs or GSRAs)</td>
<td>6 credit hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.

- a [full-time exception](https://internationalcenter.umich.edu/students/fulltime-equivalency-phd) [2].

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](https://internationalcenter.umich.edu/students/reduced-course-load) [1] (F-1/J-1)
- [Full-time equivalency for graduate students](https://internationalcenter.umich.edu/students/fulltime-equivalency-phd) [2] (F-1/J-1)
- [Concurrent enrollment](https://internationalcenter.umich.edu/students/concurrent-grad-course) [4] (F-1)
- [Guest Student Information](https://internationalcenter.umich.edu/students/guest-student-information) [5] (F-1/J-1)
- [Rackham Grace Period](https://internationalcenter.umich.edu/students/rackham-grace-period) [6] (F-1/J-1)
- [Rackham Grace Period - Special COVID-19 procedures](https://internationalcenter.umich.edu/students/rackham-grace-period-special-covid-19) [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