

MAINTAINING J-1 STUDENT STATUS

As a J-1 student, your principal purpose for being in the United States is to study. It is important that you maintain your status as a J-1 student at all times.

WHAT MUST I DO TO MAINTAIN MY J-1 STUDENT STATUS?

In order to remain in lawful J-1 status, you must:

- Have a passport that is valid for a minimum of 6 months beyond the expected completion date in Section 3 of your DS-2019 (unless your country has an agreement with the United States)
- Attend only the school you are authorized to attend
- Be a full-time student (12 credits or 9 credits with an assistantship)
- Submit timely and appropriate transfer and extension notification to Immigration Services
- Not engage in unauthorized employment
- Maintain adequate health insurance coverage for yourself and your dependents

ARE THERE ANY EXCEPTIONS TO THE FULL-TIME STUDY REQUIREMENT

There are some exceptions to the full-time course registration requirement. Exceptions may be made in the following situations or for the following reasons:

- During official school breaks and summer vacations
- In case of medical condition or illness*
- During your final semester if less than a full course load is required to complete your program
- During your first semester, if documented and approved by the Immigration Services, due to initial difficulties with the English language, American teaching methods, or improper course level placement**

**For a medical Leave of Absence, you must apply for a medical leave of absence from the college through the Office of International Programs. Bring proof of the approved Medical Leave of Absence to the Office of International Programs.*

***For a **reduced course load**, you must bring a written statement from a physician recommending a reduction of coursework. The letter must specify the amount of the reduction and the length of time for which it is recommended or required.*

Please Note: A Medical Leave of Absence is different from a Leave of Absence. Non-attendance under a Leave of Absence requires that you leave the United States, whereas a Medical Leave of Absence allows you to remain in the U.S. and maintain your J-1 student status.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I DON'T MAINTAIN MY J-1 STUDENT STATUS?

Failure to comply with the regulations regarding maintenance of your J-1 student status results in violation of your J-1 student status. Violations of your status may result in serious consequences, including termination of your program and removal from the United States.

If you have further questions, please contact the Office of International Programs, Erwin Hall 217, +1-585-245-5546, for assistance.

TRAVEL OUTSIDTE THE USA

If you wish to travel outside the USA while you are here on a J-1 visa, you must have your DS-2019 validated for travel. Upon your arrival to the USA, send your DS-2019 with a letter requesting travel validation, along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

SUNY Geneseo College
Office of International Programs
Erwin Hall 217
1 College Circle
Geneseo, NY 14454