

Students must always be registered full time. There are a limited number of situations, however, where students on an F-1 visa are permitted to take less than a full course of study. The following outlines those situations and describes what students need to do to qualify.

**Vacation:** During the normal summer vacation or during one of the other terms if the student has completed the equivalent of an academic year prior to taking the vacation.

**Medical:** If a student is compelled by illness or other medical conditions to interrupt or reduce a full course of study, s/he may be considered to be in status during the illness or other medical condition. This can not exceed 12 months. Approval must be reauthorized every semester/term. The student must resume a full course of study upon recovery.

**Valid Academic Reasons:** A student may reduce her/his course load if s/he is having initial difficulties with the English language or reading requirements, unfamiliarity with American teaching methods or improper course level placement in their first term of studies.

**Student Completing Their Program:** A student who needs fewer than full time credit hours to complete her/his program of study is considered to be pursuing a full course of study, if s/he enrolls in the number of credit hours necessary to complete the program in the final term.

### **What Should I Do for a Reduced Course Load?**

If a student's reduced course load is for vacation or completing a final term, the student does not need to do anything. A student will need authorization for a reduced course load for medical or academic reasons. Stop into the Office of International Admissions and Services and pick up a Reduced Course Load form. A student will need to provide a written doctor's excuse explaining the student cannot attend classes due to the medical condition.