



ACADEMIC ADVISING FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



International students at the University of Mississippi hold various visa types and are here for varied purposes. Some are here for only a semester while others are seeking a degree. Some hold a student visa status; others may be in a dependent status or employment status that also allows them to take classes. These differences translate into different requirements related to enrollment and work permission.

Students attend an orientation program where these requirements are explained; however, academic advisors may find the below information useful when advising international students.

	F-1	J-1	F-2	J-2
Typically held by	Degree seeking students	Exchange/study abroad students but could be degree seeking or a visiting scholar	Child or spouse of F-1 holder	Child or spouse of J-1 holder
Enrollment requirement ¹	Full time in fall and spring and summer if summer is first term of enrollment	Student category: Full time in fall and spring and summer if summer is first term of enrollment Visiting scholars should consult OIP.	Can only be part time	Can be full time or part time

¹ Full time is defined as 12 hours in fall and spring for undergraduate students and 9 hours in fall and spring for graduate students. In the summer, full time for undergraduate students is 12 hours for full summer, 6 hours for first summer and 6 hours for second summer. For graduate students, full time in the summer is 4 hours.

Withdrawing from the university or a class that puts the student at less than full time has consequences for their immigration status. Please encourage students to talk to the advisors at the Office of International Programs before dropping below full time. There are limited exceptions to the normally required full time enrollment. Most of the exceptions require approval from both the department and the Office of International Programs prior to dropping below full time. Reasons that can be considered include: difficulty with English language in first semester, unfamiliarity with American teaching methods in first semester, placement in an improper course level, medical reasons, needs less than full time load to complete the degree in final term. The Office of International Programs should be consulted for detailed information.

	F-1	J-1	F-2	J-2
Online classes ²	Allowed to enroll but only one online/distance education (3 hours) can count toward the minimum enrollment requirement.	Allowed to enroll but <u>none</u> count toward minimum enrollment requirement	No restriction	No restriction
Paid Internship ³	Maybe - Requires Curricular Practical Training approval http://international.olemiss.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/23/2015/11/Curricular-Practical-Training-Application-Packet.pdf	Student: Maybe - Requires Academic Training approval http://international.olemiss.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/23/2014/03/J-1-Academic-Training-Application-Packet.pdf Visiting scholars should consult OIP.	Not allowed	Requires USCIS work authorization. Refer student to OIP.
Change of major ⁴	Allowed	Not allowed	Allowed	Allowed

² As long as the student meets the minimum number of in-person class hours, additional online classes can be taken. For example, an undergraduate student in F-1 status and enrolled in 9 in-person hours can take more than one online course, but a student with only six hours, cannot meet the 12 hour full time standard by taking 6 hours of online classes. He/she would need to add another in-person class. Additionally, some students may have restrictions imposed by their financial sponsor regarding payment for online courses. In the final term of study, if the F-1 status student only needs one course, it cannot be done online unless the student also enrolls in an in-person class or the student completes the degree outside of the U.S.

³ Unpaid internships may still be viewed as an activity that requires work authorization. Students should be advised to consult the International Student Advisor at the Office of International Programs.

⁴ Some government sponsored students require permission of the government sponsor in order to change major. Student should consult with the government sponsor prior to changing.