

# CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY

## THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS (OIP)

### HELPFUL HINTS FOR MAINTAINING YOUR LEGAL STATUS AS AN F-1 STUDENT

1. Remain enrolled as a full-time student each semester. Full time is defined as:  
Minimum 12 credit hours per semester for undergraduates  
Minimum 9 credit hours per semester for graduate students  
Minimum 6 credit hours per semester for graduate students with TA or RA

**Exceptions:** 1) you are not required to enroll during your annual vacation  
2) you may enroll for less than a full courseload during the final term of your program

2. Always keep your Form I-20 current. If you are unable to complete your degree program by the date in #5 of your I-20, you must apply to the Office of International Programs (OIP) for a “program extension” at least 30 days prior to the expiration of the I-20. Note: You may remain in legal status 60 days beyond the day you complete your academic program. This period is known as your “grace period”.
3. Obtain a new I-20 to reflect any change in your academic program (e.g. History to Political Science) or level of study (e.g. BA to MA).
4. Never work off-campus without authorization from the OIP and immigration authorities.
5. You may not work more than 20 hours per week while school is in session.
6. Make sure your passport is valid at all times.
7. If you have further questions about maintaining your status, please contact the OIP at (773) 995-2582. You may also email [oip@csu.edu](mailto:oip@csu.edu) or [t-hope@csu.edu](mailto:t-hope@csu.edu) with your inquiries.