

DEVIATION FROM FULL COURSE OF STUDY REQUEST FORM FOR F-1 STUDENTS

An international student in F-1 status is bound by U.S. Immigration Regulations to enroll in a full course of study during the academic year. Full-time study is defined as for **graduates, 9 credit hours** and for **undergraduates, 12 credit** hours each spring and fall semester.

In limited circumstances, the Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS) does allow for a deviation from a full course of study. A student may request approval for a reduced course load by having the appropriate university personnel complete this form and then submitting it for review by an international advisor. A reduced course load based on financial need OR to protect a GPA is NOT a qualifying reason.

Student's Name _____ PSU ID# _____
 Degree Sought _____ Anticipated completion Date _____
 Faculty Advisor _____ Dept _____

To Be Completed By Faculty Advisor/Instructor:

I recommend that the student named above be allowed to take a reduced course load without jeopardizing his/her F-1 status for the following semester:

Fall 200____ Spring 200____

For the reason cited below:

1. Graduate student who has already finished program who is in one of the following situations:
 - a. preparing for the comprehensive exams
 - b. carrying out duties as teaching or research assistant that is required for degree
 - c. conducting research on thesis or dissertation
2. Improper course level placement (please provide explanation on back)
3. Initial difficulties with the English language (only considered during the students first semester)
4. Initial difficulties with reading requirements (first semester only)
5. Unfamiliarity with American teaching methods (first semester only)

Faculty Advisor's Signature _____ Date _____

To Be Completed By International Programs and Services Advisor:

6. Final semester and enrolled in number of credit hours needed to complete course of study. Documentation from the Degree Checking Office (undergraduate), or Graduate Studies Office (graduate) is needed.
7. Illness or medical condition. A medical doctor's written recommendation for a reduced course is needed.

Approval Signature of International Student Advisor _____ Date _____