



## **International Students Guide**

YOU are responsible for having all of your documentation in order and knowing about the US Immigration rules. Please see your DSO if you have any questions. DO NOT depend on information from your friends.

F1 students have very specific guidelines that must be followed whenever they make changes to their status at the college or program...

- ❖ Student may not enter the country more than thirty (30) days before their first term start.
- ❖ Student may not stay in the country more than fifteen (15) days after 'Authorized Early Withdrawal.'
- ❖ Student may not stay in the country more than forty-five (45) days after program completion. New students are considered 'Initial Status' until their first term begins. Potential students will not be registered as 'Active Status' (DHS) until they begin attending classes—no exceptions.
- ❖ To maintain F1 status, students must be full-time (9 hrs Grad and 12 hrs UG); students must take a minimum of two standard classes on campus, each active semester.
- ❖ F1 students may work on campus with pre-approval.
- ❖ Unless pre-approved for OPT, F1 students may not work off campus.
- ❖ Students must complete a minimum of two semesters ('70% of a calendar year') to be eligible for a vacation term.

The following are *some* examples of when an F1 student must contact his/her SEVIS Designated School Official (DSO) at Hodges University.

- When they change their program of study
- When they are leaving the country
- When they wish to take a term off
- When they change their [domestic] address
- When they intend to drop below a full-time course of study during a semester (pre-authorized medical reasons only)
- When planning to transfer to another institution
- When they wish to apply for OPT (Optional Practical Training)

### **Designated School Officials**

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