



COLUMBIA COLLEGE

Form. 050-011
Rev. 03/21

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATION

F-1 Student Regulations

The rules regarding F-1 students are numerous. This is just a summary of some of the main rules you must follow as an F-1 student. The full government regulations can be seen by going to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website at www.uscis.gov, and clicking on "Laws and Regulations," then "8CFR," then "Title 8, Code of Federal Regulations." The full regulations are listed under 8CFR 214.2(f).

Maintaining Your Status

*The responsibility for maintaining your immigration status is **YOURS**. There are several requirements you must follow to maintain your status.*

Be a full-time student.

*You are required to pursue a full course of study at all times. **Failure to do so will jeopardize your F-1 status.**

*International students are eligible for 10 weeks of formal vacation only AFTER meeting all requirements and obtaining approval from the International Student Advisor.

Keep your passport valid.

*Your passport must be valid at all times. Renewal applications must be made with the Embassy or Consulate of the country of your citizenship.

*Addresses of embassies and consulates located in the U.S. are available from the [U.S. Department of State](http://www.state.gov) website.

Report address changes to the International Students Office

*You are required to report any address change to Columbia College **within 10 days** of the address change.

*This includes address changes of your dependents. Please update this information with the international student advisor.

*Follow government instructions found on the [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services](http://www.uscis.gov) website.

Follow employment regulations

*Students may work **no more than 20 hours** per week on campus while school is in session.

*You are not permitted to work off-campus without receiving PRIOR authorization from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and International Admissions Office. Employment possibilities are very limited.

Follow proper procedures for extending your program.

*If you will not be able to complete your program by the expiration date on your Form I-20, you must apply for an extension of your program of study BEFORE that expiration date is reached. Come to the International Students Office and complete an Application for Extension.

Follow proper procedures for changing your academic program or degree level

*You must get a new I-20 if you change your academic program from one degree level to another or from one major of study to another. Fill out the new I-20 from the international student advisor **within 15 days** of beginning the new program.



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Follow proper transfer procedures

*If you decide to transfer to a different school in the U.S., you must give **5 weeks prior notice** to the International Students Office of your intent to transfer.

*To be eligible to transfer out in good standing, your attendance rate should be above 75%. If it is lower than 75%, you have to take extra classes in the following session until it reaches 75%. You also need to pay for the extra classes you take.

*Once you are confirmed that you are eligible for transfer out in good standing, you must bring transfer eligibility form and acceptance letter from the school you intend to transfer.

Report departure date and reason to the International Students Office

*You are required to inform the International Students Office if you plan to leave U.S. before the date on your I-20 some of these reasons include early graduation, leave of absence, suspension, expulsion, or a family emergency.

*Fill out the withdrawal/leave of absence form and submit it to International Students Office.

Receive authorization to travel

*You must notify the international student advisor **BEFORE** you travel outside the United States.

*Your I-20 must be endorsed by the advisor in order to reenter the country.

Important Note:

*This information is not exhaustive and is subject to change at any time.

*It is YOUR responsibility to make sure you are following all of the rules at all times.

*If you have questions or are uncertain about what the regulations are, contact the international student advisor.

*PLEASE DO NOT rely on friends, professors, or other staff for advice or immigration matters.

*Following bad advice may jeopardize your legal status in the U.S. or may cause you to lose opportunities available to you.

I _____ fully understand all the regulations and it is my responsibility to maintain my F-1 status and check for updates.

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Current Address: _____

Student's Signature

Date