Maintaining Your F-1 Status

As an F-1 student, you were admitted to the United States for “Duration of Status” (D/S is found on the white I-94 card in your passport.) You are permitted to stay in the U.S. as long as you maintain your status by fulfilling the requirements of being an F-1 student. Even if your visa is valid, you can lose your legal F-1 student status if you do not comply with immigration laws regulating your stay here in the U.S. Keeping the following regulations is extremely important! Penalties for violating student regulations may include: (1) applying for reinstatement (2) voluntarily leaving the United States or (3) deportation.

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) requires that you must adhere to the following regulations in order to maintain your student status:

- Enroll in and maintain a minimum of 12 credit hours every semester. F-1 students can only enroll in one Internet course per semester. 9 credit hours must be in a face-to-face class. If you fall below 12 credit hours you must apply for reinstatement before being allowed further enrollment at any Lone Star College. Full-time enrollment is required for summer if this is your first semester at Lone Star College. Full time enrollment in the summer is 12 credit hours. Before registering for credit courses, please contact and meet with your DSO that issued your I-20.

- Make normal progress towards completing the course of study. Grades of W do not count as maintaining your status. Repeated poor academic performance can result in school suspension which will require reinstatement due to loss of F-1 status.

- Report any changes of address, major field of study, or any other information found on your SEVIS I-20 to your Designated School Official (DSO) within 10 days.

- Maintain a valid passport and SEVIS I-20 at all times.

- Work only on campus unless specifically authorized by your DSO and the USCIS.

Please note: If you work illegally you may face deportation and you cannot be reinstated. See your DSO for more information regarding work authorization.

- Apply for a program extension if you cannot complete your degree by the ending date listed on your SEVIS I-20. You must apply for a program extension 30 days before the expiration date.

- Request a travel endorsement form from your DSO-Designated School Official (signature required on Page 3 of your SEVIS I-20) at least 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

- F-1 students must purchase medical insurance through the school which will automatically be charged to the student at the time of registration. If you already have insurance, you must apply for a waiver/renewal each semester to waive the insurance. The waiver is due to your DSO by the first day of class.

Lone Star College requires that you fulfill all financial obligations prior to continued enrollment or transfer. Rules and regulations are subject to change.

I certify that I have read the above statements about maintaining my F-1 status in the United States. I realize that it is my responsibility to understand and follow all regulations pertaining to my legal status.

Print Name: __________________________  Signature: __________________________

ID #: __________________________________ Date: __________________________