Maintaining Your F-1 Status

F-1 students are admitted to the United States for “Duration of Status” (D/S is found on the white I-94 card or 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 in the U.S. Abiding by 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.

If you are accepted and enroll at Lone Star College, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) & the college require that you adhere to the rules and regulations below in order to maintain your student status and succeed.

Please initial next to each condition indicating your understanding and agreement:

_____ Use your legal name (as listed on your passport) on all official documents such as school records, Texas driver’s license or ID, and applications to Social Security and USCIS.
_____ Fulfill the Meningitis vaccine requirement before beginning classes, if applicable. Due to Texas state law, LSC cannot allow students to begin classes without proof of vaccination or exemption. See www.lonestar.edu/meningitis to determine if you are affected.
_____ F-1 students with a Lone Star I-20 must maintain health insurance coverage as a condition of enrollment. To satisfy this requirement, you must purchase the insurance from the LSC-approved Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) Administrator or be approved for a waiver each semester before you will be allowed to register for classes. See http://www.lonestar.edu/23662.htm for instructions.
_____ Register in a minimum of 12 credit hours by the official start date of each semester and remain enrolled in at least 12 credit hours every semester. At least 9 credit hours must be in a face-to-face class. Only 3 out of 12 credits can be online. If you fall below 12 credit hours you must apply for reinstatement before being allowed further enrollment at any Lone Star College. If the summer semester is your first semester at LSC, you must enroll in 12 credit hours. Before registering for credit courses, please contact and meet with your Designated School Official (DSO) that issued your I-20. You must check with your DSO before dropping below 12 credit hours or ending your studies in the U.S. and leaving the country.
_____ 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 phone number, address, major field of study, or any other information found on your SEVIS I-20 to your 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. If you are employed on campus and fall out of status or complete your degree, you must stop working. Please note: If you work illegally you may face deportation and you cannot be reinstated. See your DSO for more information regarding work authorization.
_____ Upon completing your degree, you have 60 days from the last day of your classes to transfer your SEVIS record to do one of the following: 1) apply for Optional Practical Training (OPT), 2) transfer to another institution to earn your Bachelor’s degree, 3) depart the U.S., or 4) change to a new immigration status.
_____ 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 signature on your I-20 from your DSO (signature required on Page 3 of your SEVIS I-20) at least 30 days prior to departure.
_____ Attend the required International Student Orientation at the beginning of your first semester at Lone Star College.
_____ Notify your DSO before attending any schools other than Lone Star. Your F-1 record must be transferred if you decide to attend another school, so please plan accordingly.
_____ Contact your DSO right away after falling out of status if you wish to apply for reinstatement and continue your studies as an F-1 student.
_____ All communication from your DSO will be sent to your myLonestar email account. You are responsible for checking it regularly.

For Applicants Changing to F-1 Status while in the U.S.
_____ In addition to the terms above, you must notify your DSO of your Change of Status decision from USCIS, whether it is an approval or denial, within 3-5 business days of receiving it in the mail.

Lone Star College requires that you fulfill all financial obligations prior to continued enrollment and the issuance of academic records. 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 and enrollment at LSC if I am accepted and enroll at the college.

Print Name: ______________________________  Signature: ______________________________
Lone Star College ID #: ______________________________  Date: ____________________________