MAINTAINING F-1 STATUS

This may be the most important document you will read while you are in the United States. It is your responsibility to know and obey F-1 regulations or face possible removal from the U.S.

FULL-TIME STUDENT

1. Be a full-time student each main semester. You must complete (not just register) for a full course load each main semesters. To maintain your status, each spring and fall semester, undergraduate and post-baccalaureate students must complete 12 hours and graduate students 9 hours. Note: Some degree programs may require more hours for academic reasons. Check with your department. Towards your full-time requirement, you may not take more than the equivalent of one class (three credit hours) per semester online or hybrid. You are required to complete 6 hours for the summer session(s) if the program start date on your I-20 is for the summer semester. You are also required to enroll for summer if it is your final semester to complete your degree. You must receive the authorization before you drop or take below full-time hours. Please make an appointment to see an International Student Advisor BEFORE taking below full-time hours even if you are failing the class. A grade of “W” does not count toward your full-time requirement.

☐ I completely understand this regulation and will comply with it
☐ I have questions or need more information

AUTHORIZED FOR EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

1. Never work off-campus unless you have current authorization from an International Student Advisor or the DHS. You must either have authorization on page 2 of your I-20 or an employment authorization card (EAD) from the DHS. All off-campus employment has a beginning and ending date. Renewals must be done before resuming work. Even 1 day of work without authorization is a serious violation of U.S. law. On-campus work does not require authorization, but you must maintain your full-time student status to be eligible. On-campus work is limited to no more than 20 hours per week during the fall and spring and may be full-time during the summer. You may not engage in on-campus employment after your completion of study.

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CARRY CURRENT DOCUMENTS

1. Keep your passport valid at all times. Your passport should be valid for at least 6 months into the future.

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2. Inside the U.S. you must maintain your visa status, not your visa sticker in your passport. The visa sticker in your passport can expire while you are in the U.S. because its only function is to serve as a “key” to enter or reenter the U.S. Your visa status is defined with the F-1 and D/S (Duration of Status) on your I-20 and I-94. You must maintain your status (not the sticker) in order to remain in the U.S. You maintain your visa status by obeying all U.S. regulations (highlighted in this handout). You only need to renew your visa sticker if you leave the U.S. and want to reenter. Be sure to only enter with an F-1 visa if you want to have F-1 status in the U.S. The type of visa sticker you use determines your status in the U.S. If you are an F-1 student and have a specific departure date on your I-94 (there is no D/S), make an appointment to see an advisor in our office immediately.

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3. Only attend the school listed on your current I-20. To attend another school, you must transfer to that school (obtain approval on a new I-20) or receive a concurrent enrollment letter from our office.

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CARRY CURRENT DOCUMENTS continued on next page...
I have read all of the above statements and understand that I am required to know and obey all F-1 regulations.

Name __________________________ Signature __________________________ Date ___________