June 1, 2023

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has announced it plans to return to the usual registration requirements for F-1 students in Fall 2023. As classes at Rutgers have returned to primarily in-person and blended modes of delivery and the U.S. government’s COVID-19 emergency has ended in May 2023, the Department of Homeland Security’s exception allowing additional online courses no longer applies and will expire after the 2022-2023 academic year.

This means that there is a limit to how many credits of online courses can count toward your full-time registration each semester. All F-1 students must enroll for a full course of study every fall and spring semester until they complete their program. Summer enrollment for continuing students is optional and is not subject to this requirement.

While the SEVP’s COVID-19 guidance is terminated as of May 11, 2023, students in active F-1 status will be able to complete the 2022-2023 academic year under the COVID-19 flexibilities through the 2023 summer semester. However, F-1 students will not be permitted to count more than one online class or 3 credits toward a full course of study requirement for the 2023-2024 academic year.

This means that undergraduate students may count no more than 3 credits of online coursework toward the 12-credit full-time coursework requirement, and graduate students may count no more than 3 credits of online coursework toward the 9-credit full-time coursework requirement. Hybrid courses may count as in-person classes.

In other words, if you enroll in more than your minimum credit requirement, you MAY enroll in more than 3 online credits, but please note the following:

**Undergraduate F-1 students**
Every fall and spring semester, at least 9 of your credits must be for in-person or blended courses. Once you have enrolled in 9 credits of in-person or blended courses, the remainder of your credits can be online or remote.

**Graduate F-1 students**
At least 6 of your credits must be for in-person or blended courses. Your remaining credits may be online or remote.
J-1 students
Enrollment policies for J-1 students are not changing.

SEVP originally published its COVID-19 flexibilities to accommodate the national emergencies as they pertained to SEVP-certified schools and students, including restrictions and disruptions to travel and changes in teaching methods at the time. The flexibility was always intended as a temporary measure to allow students to continue their studies with the least disruptions as possible and did not signify or result in a permanent change to the regulations.

Additional Resources:
SEVP COVID-19 Flexibilities Terminated: Here’s What You Need to Know
Frequently Asked Questions for SEVP Stakeholders About COVID-19
Full Course of Study Requirement

Sincerely,
Rutgers Global – International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)
https://global.rutgers.edu/

This periodic update from the Rutgers Global – International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) office provides you with important information regarding your legal status, upcoming programs, and useful resources. Previous updates can be found on our Email Notices page.

These notices are automatically sent to all nonimmigrant students enrolled at Rutgers–New Brunswick and Rutgers–Biomedical and Health Sciences. Most messages, however, apply only to F-1 and J-1 students. We label most messages to facilitate your identification of which messages may apply to you personally. All F-1 and J-1 students on Rutgers' visa sponsorships must know the information provided in these notices and follow reminders and instructions that apply to their own situations.

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