

Dear International Student,

Welcome to the Fall 2009-2010 academic term! We hope that you had a wonderful and relaxing summer! As you prepare for the start of the Fall academic term, please keep the following items in mind. If you have any questions regarding this message, please call the Office for International Students and Scholars (OISS) at 312-362-8376 for more information!

1. NEW STUDENTS MUST CHECK IN WITH THE OFFICE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS (OISS)!

Welcome to DePaul University! All international students who have been issued an I-20 by DePaul University are required to attend an OISS immigration orientation. Please call the OISS at 312-362-8376 and register for one of the following orientations:

- Thursday, September 3, 2009, 10:00 a.m. - DePaul Center 8th floor
- Thursday, September 10, 2009, 10:00 a.m. - DePaul Center 8th floor
- Thursday, September 17, 2009, 10:00 a.m. - DePaul Center 8th floor

Please also remember that as a new international student in F-1 visa status, you will have a registration-blocking service indicator on your record until you first check in with the OISS and submit copies of your immigration documents. Within 24 hours of submitting all required documents to the OISS, the OISS registration hold on your account will be removed. Once this registration block has been removed, you will be able to register for classes.

2. TRANSFER STUDENTS

If you have been issued a “transfer pending” I-20 by DePaul University, please note that you must complete the transfer process no later than 15 days from the program start date indicated in item # 5 of your I-20. The transfer will be considered complete only if you obtain a “continued attendance” I-20 from the OISS. To complete your transfer, visit the OISS soon!

Please also remember that as a transfer student in F-1 visa status, you will have a registration-blocking service indicator on your record until you first check in with the OISS and submit copies of your immigration documents. Within 24 hours of submission of all required documents to the OISS, the OISS registration hold on your account will be removed. Once this registration block has been removed, you will be able to register for classes.

3. MAINTAIN LAWFUL STATUS / REGISTER FOR FALL 2009-2010 CLASSES!

As you already know, international students with F-1 visa status must successfully complete a full course of study each term to maintain lawful F-1 status. To successfully complete a full course of study, you must receive a grade in each class at the end of the term. A “W” or “FX” is not a grade and will not be counted towards fulfillment of your full course of study requirement. Please note that to be eligible for any F-1 benefit (example Optional Practical Training) you will be required to show that you maintained your F-1 status during your stay in the U.S. If your transcript shows that you received a “W” or “FX” grade, your status may be in jeopardy unless you successfully completed during each term, enough credit hours equaling a full course of study.

If you have not yet completed your degree requirements, you must be enrolled for a FULL COURSE OF STUDY for the Fall 2009-2010 term by **Tuesday, September 15, 2009**. For a full course of study, please see load requirements below. Questions? Please call the OISS at 312-362-8376.

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|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Undergraduate | 12 credit hours |
| Graduate | 8 credit hours |
| Graduate Music | 6 credit hours |
| Law | 12 credit hours |
| English Language Academy | 4 courses |

*Reminder: International students in F-1 non-immigrant visa status are restricted from counting more than one online learning (OL) course per quarter towards their "full course of study" requirement.

4. Restriction on Online Learning (OL) Courses

As you register for Fall 2009-2010 classes, please remember that international students in F-1 non-immigrant visa status are restricted from counting more than one online learning (OL) course per quarter towards their "full course of study" requirement.

5. Exception to Full Course of Study

Under current regulations, a student may be enrolled for less than the required full course load only under special circumstances. A student who is not enrolled in a full course of study and does not have PRIOR authorization to do so from an OISS advisor (DSO) will be considered out of status.

The deadline to obtain DSO authorization for a reduced course load for the Fall 2009-2010 term is **Tuesday, September 15, 2009**. For more information read "Full Course of Study Exception Request" at <http://oiss.depaul.edu/docs/fullcourseexception.pdf> . Please contact an OISS advisor to find out if you qualify for a reduced course load exception before the deadline! Remember, you should never drop or withdraw from a class before obtaining a new updated I-20 indicating that you have been granted the necessary SEVIS permission.

6. On-Campus Employment

If you have not yet completed your degree requirements and have an on-campus job, please note that you may work more than 20 hours per week during the summer break only. With the start of the Fall 2009-2010 term, you will again be restricted to 20 hours of work per week while school is in session i.e. during the quarter/semester. For guidance regarding your eligibility for employment (on-campus and off-campus) please visit <http://oiss.depaul.edu/Employment/index.asp> .

7. FINAL TERM? NEW POST-COMPLETION OPT APPLICATION DEADLINE

Plan ahead!!! Is Fall 2009-2010 your final term? F-1 students can now apply for post-completion OPT up to 60 days following their program completion date. Keep in mind, however, USCIS still adjudicates I-765 applications within 90 days, and 12 months of post-completion OPT can only be used within the 14 months following the program completion date. Therefore, it is still best to plan ahead when applying for OPT. Additionally, all OPT applications must be properly filed within 30 days from the date on which the OISS recommends the OPT in SEVIS. If the OPT recommendation in SEVIS is dated more than 30 days prior to the USCIS receipt date, the application may be denied. Plan ahead and attend an OPT session as soon as possible! For more information about OPT please see <http://oiss.depaul.edu/docs/OPTprocedures.pdf>. For a schedule of our OPT processing sessions, please consult <http://oiss.depaul.edu/docs/EmploymentSession0809.pdf> or call OISS at 312-362-8376.

8. OPT AND COURSE OF STUDY

If you have already completed your degree requirements and are currently authorized for post-completion Optional Practical Training (OPT), you may enroll in classes ONLY IF the classes are "incidental" to your OPT employment. CAUTION: Enrollment by an OPT student who has been admitted to a new degree program and is taking courses towards that new degree program would not be considered "incidental". Contact an OISS advisor for further clarification to avoid violating your lawful F-1 status.

9. TRANSFERRING OUT TO ANOTHER SCHOOL

If you wish to attend another school, you must request that your DePaul University SEVIS I-20 record be transferred to your new school in order to obtain an I-20 from the new school. You must initiate the transfer of your DePaul SEVIS I-20 record no later than 60 days from the last date of the quarter in which you completed your degree requirements (or were last enrolled). If you are currently authorized for post-completion OPT, you must initiate the transfer no later than 60 days from the OPT end date. To request the transfer of your DePaul University SEVIS I-20 record, please submit your admit letter and complete and submit to the OISS an "Intent to Transfer Form" available at <http://oiss.depaul.edu/docs/transferintent.pdf> .

10. FILING TAXES

All international students in F-1 non-immigrant status are responsible for filing an income tax return each year in April, even if they have no U.S. source income. For more information please visit our website <http://oiss.depaul.edu/Employment/Tax/index.asp>.

11. Travel!

If you are traveling outside of the U.S., please make sure that you have all the necessary documents to re-enter the U.S. and resume your studies. For a detailed list of travel documents, visit our Travel section at <http://oiss.depaul.edu/Travel/index.asp>.

12. UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS IN CAMPUS CONNECTION!

Check that your Home, Mailing and Permanent addresses are current and complete in Campus Connection. Failure to update your address via Campus Connection could result in a loss of your legal non-immigrant status and a loss of eligibility to remain in the U.S. to complete your studies. Visit Campus Connection at <https://campusconnect.depaul.edu> .

Students in F-1 non-immigrant visa status who fail to fulfill the above requirements will be considered "out of status". U.S. federal regulations require DePaul University to report students who are not maintaining their lawful student status to SEVIS. Failure to maintain lawful student status may lead to serious immigration-related problems including arrest and deportation.

Questions? Please stop by the OISS or contact our front desk at 312/362-8376 for more information. For our advising services, please see <http://oiss.depaul.edu/Advising/index.asp> .

Best wishes for a successful term!

Warm regards,

Office for International Students and Scholars
DePaul University
1 E. Jackson Boulevard
DePaul Center, Suite 9300
Chicago, IL 60604

OISS@depaul.edu
312-362-8376
312-362-8018 (Fax)
<http://oiss.depaul.edu>