

Maintaining Status

International Programs

Visa vs Visa Status

VISA – document that gets you into U.S.

VISA STATUS – keeps you in U.S.

- You can be in the U.S. after your visa expires.
- Admitted for Duration of Status (D/S).
- Cannot renew visa in U.S.
- Will need to renew visa if you depart U.S. and want to return.
- Must maintain your visa status by following the rules in order to legally stay in the U.S.

ONLY YOU CAN MAINTAIN YOUR STATUS

- While you are in the US, you must maintain your visa status.
- This is your responsibility; nobody can do it for you. Not even us, but we can help by giving you good information.
- **If you have questions, or need help with something relating to your visa status, ask the International Programs Staff!** Professors & other staff members may not be trained on the current regulations so please speak to International Programs if you have any questions!
- International Advisors are trained on regulations and will assist with issues relating to your visa status, or send you to the proper area if they cannot assist.

Full Time Enrollment

You MUST be enrolled for a full course of study!

- It is a U.S. federal law! LTU does not make this law, so we cannot change it!
- You must always be enrolled full time in spring & fall semesters
- Summer is a vacation term for *most* students
 - Do not need any enrollment
 - Part-time (or no enrollment) is okay
 - Cannot take vacation if Summer is your first or last term
- Undergraduate (Bachelor's level) = 12 hours, per U.S. federal law
- Graduate (Master's level) = 6 hours, per LTU policy
- Post-Graduate (Doctoral) = depends on the program, per LTU policy

Exceptions can be made only in very specific circumstances. See International Programs if you think this may apply to you

Online Learning Limits

- International Students have limitations on online/distance learning. Hybrid classes are considered online classes as well!
- No more than 3 credit hours of distance learning classes count towards your full time enrollment.
 - Undergraduate students who need to maintain 12 credit hours can only count 3 credit hours of online learning to meeting this requirement.
 - Graduate students who need to maintain 6 credit hours can only count 3 credit hours of online to meeting this requirement.
- International students can take more than 3 credits of online learning after they have met the required credit hour amounts.
- If a student takes additional credit hours above the **minimum** enrollment requirement, then additional online courses are allowed.

Reporting a U.S. Address

- You must report a local address. You must live locally! You can't live in California and attend LTU.
- You must tell us when you move. The law requires you to tell us within 10 days.
- There are many ways to tell us you moved:
 - Come to our office and fill out a Change of Address form.
 - Go to the One Stop Center and fill out of a change of address form.
 - Update it in BannerWeb and then email us. (We will never know if you just update BannerWeb.)

Unauthorized Employment

- **U.S. laws have zero tolerance for unauthorized employment and there are significant consequences.**
- If you work without authorization, LTU is required by law to terminate your SEVIS record immediately.
 - LTU cannot ignore the violation; we are obligated by law to report it.
 - We cannot just warn you to stop and never do it again – we must report it.
- You will have to depart the U.S. immediately.
 - There is no grace period before departure.
- If you are enrolled in classes at the time, you will be administratively withdrawn from all classes. Tuition and fees will not be refunded.
- Unpaid work is still work. You must get authorization, even for unpaid work.
- Any type of activity for which someone would normally be paid is considered to be work.
- Working for or helping relatives is still considered work.
- Continuing to work after previous work authorization has expired is unauthorized employment. (For example, continuing to work after CPT authorization end date.)
- Intent is not a factor. Your record will be terminated and you must depart, regardless of whether or not you intended to violate your status.

Guest Credit & Transfers

- Your I-20/DS2019 is written for LTU which means you can only attend here.
- If you wish to take guest credit at another school, you must complete the process prior to starting courses there.
 - Guest Credit *must* be approved by LTU to receive academic credit.
 - International Programs must verify school is SEVIS certified & approve guest credit.
 - Student must submit proof of enrollment & transcript from other school.
- If you wish to transfer to another school, you must transfer your SEVIS record.

Program End Dates & Extensions

- ALWAYS KNOW YOUR PROGRAM END DATE!
 - I-20: section 5
 - DS-2019: section 3
- If you graduate before that date, it will be corrected automatically.
- If you will not graduate by that date, you must get an extension BEFORE that date. Failure to get an extension will result in going out of status.
- We will contact you prior to your program end date to remind you to get a program extension if necessary.

Health Insurance

- You MUST maintain a health insurance policy at all times while at LTU!
- It is required for all international students.
- Healthcare is very expensive in the U.S. and health insurance helps with the cost.
- Our website <https://www.ltu.edu/international/insurance.asp> provides information on required coverage & companies.
- Continuing coverage is the student's responsibility – we do not regularly follow up on this.