

Dear F1 International Students,

The federal government ([ICE/SEVP](#)) has not yet released any guidance related to international student enrollment for the Spring 2021 semester as it relates to COVID-19. Specifically, we do not yet know whether the temporary Fall 2020 accommodations due to COVID-19 will continue into Spring 2021. We do not know what the physical presence requirement will be for initial or continuing F1 students. We do not know if continuing F1 students can maintain their F1 status if enrolled full time while they are abroad. And unfortunately, we do not anticipate receiving any guidance on these questions before late November or early December 2020.

Therefore, as we prepare for Spring 2021 semester course registration, we ask that you prepare to meet the standard F1 registration requirement regulations which existed pre-COVID-19, found [here](#). These regulations require that you study in the U.S. and that you enroll in a minimum number of credits that require your physical presence. Specifically:

- Undergraduate F1 international students must register for a minimum of twelve (12) credits; at least nine (9) of those credits must be in courses with physical presence requirement (that is, not fully online).
- Graduate F1 international students must register for a minimum of nine (9) credits; at least six (6) of those credits must be in courses with physical presence requirement (not fully online).

(Note: These requirements are different for Master's Thesis and Doctoral students who have already completed all core and elective course requirements and have only research credits remaining. These requirements are also different for students in their final semester. For more information, see "Enrollment Requirements for Master's Thesis and Doctoral Students" and "Final Semester Minimum Registration Requirements" at this link: [Registration Requirements](#).)

Advance Registration begins as early as November 12, 2020 for undergraduate students and November 16, 2020 for graduate students. You have been assigned a specific date to register. This time was selected to provide you greater selection of available physical presence (not fully online) courses. Please plan on registering for Spring 2021 courses during your assigned advance registration time to ensure you can meet physical presence requirements.

If you are currently abroad, we recommend that you do not reserve housing nor schedule a flight until we have guidance from ICE/SEVP regarding Spring 2021.

We remain hopeful that ICE/SEVP will allow continued flexibility on the physical presence requirement for international student enrollment. But if they revert to the pre-pandemic requirements, we want to be sure that you have the necessary courses available to continue your program. UF is planning precisely with your interests at heart. Should the federal government continue or issue new COVID-19 accommodations relaxing physical presence requirements for Spring 2021, we may be able to adapt to allow more online instruction at that time.

Sincerely,

[F1 International Student Compliance Services](#)

University of Florida International Center

[Contact Your F1 Advisor](#)