

F-1 Student Policies

Attendance

The student is considered to be on probation for "poor attendance," if the student's cumulative attendance falls below 80%. F-1 visa students will be terminated from SEVIS for "poor attendance".

Absences due to Extenuating Circumstances

Regardless of the reason, a student who is absent will be marked absent. However, if the student has an official doctor's note, we will reconsider the student schedule to be terminated for "poor attendance" instead.

GPA (Grade Point Average)

A minimum of 2.0 cumulative GPA for undergraduate and 3.0 for graduate's students must be maintained. Failure to maintain the minimum will put the student on academic probation. If the student's GPA for the session falls below 2.0 while on probation, the student may be suspended from the school for up to two semesters. For an F-1 visa student, the student will be terminated from SEVIS for "poor academic performance"

Code of Student Conduct

An F-1 International student are expected to observe traditional SIU of scholarly discourse, academic behavior, and due process. Students, as well as faculty, are expected to exhibit the high level of personal integrity which society demands of professionals.

To encourage and maintain this atmosphere, SIU considers disruptive behavior unacceptable and will take action against any such behavior that occurs in class or on the school site.

Disruptive behavior

Conduct that prevents other students from learning or from doing required homework

Words or actions that prevent the teacher from meeting the needs and goals of the class

Words or actions intended to hurt, harass or offend a teacher, student, or staff member.

Includes but is not limited to:

1. Disrespect/ lack of courtesy displayed toward another student, instructor, or staff member.

Examples:

- Threatening others verbally or physically (zero-tolerance policy)
- Indifference, disrespect, or rudeness towards a fellow student, or SIU employees, whether overt or implied;
- Not completing assigned student work
- Refusing to cooperate with teachers and other students in class work and outside assignments
- Sleeping in class
- Refusal to sign the Enrollment Agreement

2. being late to class–Repeatedly arriving late (includes returning late after breaks). Also, being 10 minutes late to class 3 times is counted as 1 day of absence.

3. Use of alcohol or drugs–NO alcohol or drugs is allowed in our classrooms or on school property at any time.

Also, you must not arrive at school under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

4. Violence/ sexual offense—Any form of physical violence, threats, or sexual harassment will result in immediate expulsion from the program.

5. Academic Dishonesty is unacceptable at SIU. Academic dishonesty may result in failing an assignment, failing a test, and/or failing a class. Repeated cheating and plagiarism may result in expulsion and loss of I-20 status.

Cheating:

- Cheating on exams or possession of the official exams for SIU courses.
- Copying another student's work during a test or quiz.
- Copying another student's homework assignment.
- Taking photos of exams by cell phone or any other means

Plagiarism:

- Copying from the Internet without crediting the source.
- Paraphrasing other people's ideas, information, or writing without crediting the source.
- Submitting a writing assignment written completely or in part by someone else.

Actions taken when students do not obey conduct policies:

1. Expulsion – After repeat offenses, a student will be asked to leave the program and will lose I-20 status. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security will be notified regarding all out-of-status conditions.
2. Appointment with Director or academic advisor with specific consequences or actions taken.

3. Private meeting with the teacher or advisor to review the conduct policy and receive a written warning.
4. Verbal warning from an instructor or staff member, specifying the behavior and the consequences.

Complaint Procedure

If a complaint cannot be resolved after exhausting the institution's procedure, "A student or any member of the public may file a complaint about this institution to the following

Florida Commission for Independent Education

325 W. Gaines Street Suite 1414

Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400

Ph.: (850)-245-3200 or (888) 224-6684

Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools

750 First Street NE Suite 980

Washington, DC 20002-4223

Tel: 202.336.6780

Fax: 202.842.2593

Confidentiality of grievances: All grievances shall be considered confidential and shall not be disclosed to individuals or organizations not involved in the grievance.

Policy on Human Rights

An International student brings together in common pursuit of its educational goals persons of many nations, races, and creeds. SIU is guided by the teachings that in no aspect of its programs shall there be differences in the treatment of persons because of race, creed, color, national origin, age, sex, disability, sexual orientation, and any other classifications that deprive the person of consideration as an individual, and that equal opportunity and access to facilities shall be available to all.

These principles are expected to be observed in the internal policies and practices of SIU; specifically in the admission, and education of students.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS: DISTANCE, ONLINE & HYBRID COURSE POLICY

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security issued important regulations particularly as to international students with F-1 visa status and their participation in registered classes. SIU must ensure compliance with the federal requirements, as well as applicable IHL and university policies (See the NAFSA and CFR below). This Communication provides best practices and guidelines to assist valued faculty in the instruction and advising of international students with respect to (i) enrolling/registering in the correct course load requirements; (ii) maintaining international student's good-standing visa status; (iii) ensuring sufficient and adequate "physical presence" in the classroom; and, (v) facilitating timely progress towards degree completion.

3.20.7 Distance education limits (NAFSA manual) No more than the equivalent of one on-line/distance education class or 3 credits per session may count towards the "full course of study" requirement, if the course "does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class." If the student's course of

study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be counted toward the full course of study requirement. 8 C.F.R. § 214.2(j) (6) (i) (G)

(G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted if taken on-Line or through distance education in a course that does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward classroom hours or credit.

Distance Learning/On-Line Courses

A distance learning or on-line course is one that does not require a (n international) student's physical presence for classes, exams and/or other purposes integral to course completion. At SIU, International students may take online classes, but only a maximum of three-credit hours of these may apply to the international student's full-time status each semester. This means only one 3 credit online course per semester may count towards the student's full-time status. Therefore, undergraduate students who are enrolled in twelve credits must take nine of those credits in regular classroom-taught classes and graduate students who are enrolled in nine credits must take six of those credits in traditional classroom-based classes.

Summary

F-1 students are required take the minimum credit requirements of full-time hours each semester, except in the final semester.

An international student's lawful F-1 status will be terminated if s/he:

- maintains a course load that falls below 12 undergraduate or 9 graduate credit hours;
- fails to register for all class semesters during the first registration period;
- fails to attend a registered class for which the student receives a WA grade; or,
- Withdraws from a semester.

Grades which count towards satisfying the full-time enrollment requirement are A, B, C, D, F, P (Pass), and I(Incomplete* so long as completed within the Catalog-specified limitation period).

Grades which do not count towards satisfying the "full-time enrollment requirement" are W, WA, audit, and an incomplete (I) grade which becomes an F.

Failure to comply with the regulation [8 C.F.R. 214.2(f)(6)(i)(G)] violates a student's F-1 status.