

Medical Reduced Course Load

International Students enrolled in a degree program in the United States are required to study full time and enroll in a full course load each term to maintain their F-1 visa status (8 CFR 214.2(f)(6)). If the student has a serious medical health issue, a DSO may authorize a reduced course load (or, if necessary, no course load) due to the student's temporary illness or medical condition for a period of time not exceeding an aggregate of 12 months.

This is known as a Medical Reduced Course Load (MRCL). In order to authorize a MRCL, the student must provide medical documentation from a licensed medical doctor, doctor of osteopathy, or licensed clinical psychologist, to the International Student Office to substantiate the illness or medical condition.

The student will need to complete a request form to provide evidence of the student's medical condition to approve their MRCL in SEVIS (8 CFR 214.2(f)(6)(iii)(B)). The student needs to complete this form and provide a letter from a medical professional in order for the International Student Office to authorize the MRCL in SEVIS. Signatures may be digital signatures or an original (wet-ink) signature.

Students should note that they will also need to complete a Leave of Absence (LOA) form with the Office of the Registrar. Students should be aware that MRCL is granted for the duration of the entire quarter, and it is advisable that the end date of the MRCL specified by the medical professional corresponds to the end date of the quarter.