



June 1, 2023

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has announced it plans to return to the usual registration requirements for F-1 students in Fall 2023. As classes at Rutgers have returned to primarily in-person and blended modes of delivery and the U.S. government's COVID-19 emergency has ended in May 2023, the Department of Homeland Security's exception allowing additional online courses no longer applies and will expire after the 2022-2023 academic year.

This means that there is a limit to how many credits of online courses can count toward your full-time registration each semester. All F-1 students must enroll for a [full course of study](#) every fall and spring semester until they complete their program. *Summer enrollment for continuing students is optional and is not subject to this requirement.*

While the SEVP's COVID-19 guidance is terminated as of May 11, 2023, students in active F-1 status will be able to complete the 2022-2023 academic year under the COVID-19 flexibilities through the 2023 summer semester. However, F-1 students will not be permitted to count more than one online class or 3 credits toward a full course of study requirement for the 2023-2024 academic year.

This means that undergraduate students may count no more than 3 credits of online coursework toward the 12-credit full-time coursework requirement, and graduate students may count no more than 3 credits of online coursework toward the 9-credit full-time coursework requirement. Hybrid courses may count as in-person classes.

In other words, if you enroll in more than your minimum credit requirement, you MAY enroll in more than 3 online credits, but please note the following:

Undergraduate F-1 students

Every fall and spring semester, at least 9 of your credits must be for in-person or blended courses. Once you have enrolled in 9 credits of in-person or blended courses, the remainder of your credits can be online or remote.

Graduate F-1 students

At least 6 of your credits must be for in-person or blended courses. Your remaining credits may be online or remote.

J-1 students

Enrollment policies for J-1 students are not changing.

SEVP originally published its COVID-19 flexibilities to accommodate the national emergencies as they pertained to SEVP-certified schools and students, including restrictions and disruptions to travel and changes in teaching methods at the time. The flexibility was always intended as a temporary measure to allow students to continue their studies with the least disruptions as possible and did not signify or result in a permanent change to the regulations.

Additional Resources:

[SEVP COVID-19 Flexibilities Terminated: Here's What You Need to Know](#)
[Frequently Asked Questions for SEVP Stakeholders About COVID-19](#)
[Full Course of Study Requirement](#)

Sincerely,

Rutgers Global – International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)

<https://global.rutgers.edu/>

This periodic update from the Rutgers Global – International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) office provides you with important information regarding your legal status, upcoming programs, and useful resources. Previous updates can be found on our [Email Notices page](#).

These notices are automatically sent to all nonimmigrant students enrolled at Rutgers–New Brunswick and Rutgers–Biomedical and Health Sciences. Most messages, however, apply only to F-1 and J-1 students. We label most messages to facilitate your identification of which messages may apply to you personally. All F-1 and J-1 students on Rutgers' visa sponsorships must know the information provided in these notices and follow reminders and instructions that apply to their own situations.

This is NOT a subscription email list. These notices are sent periodically to an automatically generated list. If you are a permanent resident or citizen of the U.S and should not be receiving these notices, please contact ISSS:

New Brunswick

848-932-7015

iss-students@global.rutgers.edu

RBHS

973-972-6138

iss-rbhs@global.rutgers.edu