



Dear International Students,

We are so glad you are here at UNT! While things may look different this year, International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) wants to ensure that you have a successful semester. To do this, PLEASE be aware of the immigration laws that will affect you during your time here.

Please read carefully through the following information and contact our office if you have any questions. Remember, each situation is different and immigration regulations are complex. If you ever have questions, we are here to help! Have a wonderful semester and [remember the FACTS!](#)

Sincerely,
UNT ISSS

NOTE: Current information regarding Immigration Updates including COVID-19 changes are available at international.unt.edu/immigration

Full-Time Enrollment and Exemptions

You are required to maintain full-time enrollment. This is defined as 12 hours for undergraduates and 9 hours for graduates during long semesters. There are few reasons you may be considered full-time while not enrolled in the minimum number of hours. If you will be below hours this semester and any of these reasons apply, approval from ISSS must be given by **January 25th**.

F-2 Students

F-2 visa holders may only be enrolled part-time. It is your responsibility to monitor your enrollment. Please contact our office if you have any questions.

Final Semester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring 2021 is final semester of required enrollment, few classes required to complete degree This MUST be your LAST semester. Immigration allows only one final semester Fill out the "Exemption from Full-Time Enrollment" form and have signed by academic advisor (or Toulouse for graduate students.) Return form to ISSS. A new I-20 will be issued.
Dissertation or Thesis Only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coursework is completed and only thesis or dissertation hours remain to complete degree Must bring the "Graduate Student Full-Time Equivalency" form to Toulouse for approval
CPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full-time CPT students may waive the full-time enrollment requirement CPT must be approved prior to working and prior to January 25th
Other	Please refer to the "Exemption from Full-Time Enrollment" form online for more information. If any of these reasons apply, please have your academic advisor complete the form and email it to us.

Immigration Advising Hours

Monday
1:30-3:30P

Tuesday
9:30-11:30A
1:30-3:30P

Thursday
9:30-11:30A
1:30-3:30P

Friday
9:30-11:30A

U.S. SEVIS Address & Phone Number

U.S. SEVIS address and phone number MUST be up to date at ALL TIMES. Update your Current/Local address and Main Phone Number at my.unt.edu. We will receive a notification and update your address with USCIS/SEVIS.

Visit international.unt.edu/localaddress for instructions on how to update your address.

How to Write a Current/Local U.S. Address

Street Number **Street Name** Apartment Number (if applicable)

Optional second line

City, State, Zip Code

123 **Scrappy Street** Apt 1*

Denton, TX 76201

*Apt is an abbreviation for apartment

IMPORTANT DATES

January 11	Classes Begin
January 11 - 15	Add/Drop Period
January 25	Census Date
February 1	OPT applications accepted for Spring 2021 grads
May 1	Last day of Spring 2021
June 30	Last day for Spring 2021 grads to apply for OPT

EagleConnect Email

All official correspondence from UNT will be sent to your EagleConnect email. You MUST check this email for important information regarding immigration status.

Failure to check this email will NOT serve as a reason to avoid F-1 status termination.

To forward emails to a personal account, visit eagleconnect.unt.edu/forward

Concurrent Enrollment

If you will enroll concurrently at another institution during Spring 2021, remember:

- You MUST enroll in at least one UNT course and the combination of hours from both schools MUST equal full-time enrollment
- We will maintain your immigration record. All changes MUST be reported to ISSS.
- If the other school requires a letter from our office, it will take 3 business days to complete. Apply online at international.unt.edu/ISSS/concurrent-enrollment-request-form
- You MUST turn in proof of enrollment from the other school to our office by January 25th, 2021.
- At the end of the semester, you **MUST** submit a transcript/grade report showing completion of courses to ISSS.

Online Courses - COVID19 Information

If you are a newly arrived student who arrived in the U.S. AFTER March 2020:

- You must enroll in at least 1 face-to-face, partially online, or partially remote class.
- All other courses may be remote or online.

If you are a continuing students who was in F-1 status in March 2020:

- You can be enrolled in all online/remote courses.

REMEMBER: This information is temporary! Restrictions on online enrollment may go back into effect for Summer and Fall 2021



Graduating in May?

Congratulations! ISSS is very proud of you and your accomplishments! There's a lot on your mind, but we would like to remind you of some important things that need to be done this semester:

- File an "Exemption from Full-Time Enrollment" Form if you will be below full-time hours in Spring 2021
- File for graduation with UNT. The deadline is early. Check with the Registrar (Undergrads) or Toulouse (Grads) for instructions.
- If you want to apply for Optional Practical Training (OPT), plan to complete a mandatory workshop early in the semester. It can take up to 3 months for approval so get started early!
- If you will not apply for OPT, you have 60 days after your I-20 ends to figure out your next step. If you will begin a new program, you must receive a new I-20 within 60 days of completion. If you plan to return home, make reservations to leave before your grace period expires.
- Remember!** Immigration considers your last day of enrollment, not your graduation ceremony, as the date to use for your OPT application. If you are no longer required to enroll by UNT after Spring 2021, your program completion date is May 1, 2021.



OPT Workshops

To apply for Optional Practical Training (OPT), you must first complete the OPT workshop and pass the quiz.

Visit international.unt.edu/content/optional-practical-training to take the workshop online.

Complete this early in the semester as the application process is lengthy.

SCAM ALERT

If you are contacted by someone claiming to be with a U.S. government agency, who asks for money to fix an immigration or tax issue, contact ISSS or the UNT police first!

DO NOT send money and DO NOT give them personal information!

Find us online!



@UNTInternational



@GlobalUNT

DON'T FALL OUT OF STATUS

F-1 status may be terminated due to:

Failure to Enroll

If you do not enroll in courses for a given semester, your SEVIS record will be terminated. If you plan to take a semester off, fill out an "Ending Studies" form, found on our website. You have 15 days to leave the U.S. after this date.

Enrolling Less than Full-Time Without Approval

If you do not receive approval to enroll less than full-time, your SEVIS record will be terminated. Remember to email proof of concurrent enrollment or file an "Exemption from Full-Time Enrollment" form.

Unauthorized Employment

International Students are NOT allowed to work off campus ANYWHERE without approval from USCIS or our office.

F-1 students are limited to 20 hours of on-campus work per week. Please speak with an advisor if you have any questions.

I-20 Expiration

Do not let your I-20 expire! Look on the first page where it says "Complete studies not later than: ____" or on newer versions it states "PROGRAM END DATE" or "PROGRAM START/END DATE"

If you will not complete by this date, visit ISSS to inquire about a Program Extension before your I-20 expires.

Online Classes (SPECIAL COVID-19 NOTE)

If you were not in F-1 status inside the U.S. in March 2020, you must enroll in at least one face-to-face or partially remote class. If you were in F-1 status in March 2020 and have the same SEVIS ID number, you may enroll in 100% online/remote coursework.