Reduced Course Load

All international students in F-1 or J-1 visa status are required to maintain a full course load of study during each semester in order to remain in compliance with his/her nonimmigrant status. ISU requires a 12 credit hour minimum for undergraduates and a 9 credit hour minimum for graduate students for the fall and spring semesters. To drop below full-time status, students must present this signed for to an Immigration Advisor at the Office of International Studies. Permission must be granted prior to reducing the course load, before the 10th class day. Dropping below full course of study without prior approval of the Office of International Studies will result in a violation of immigration status.

Students engaging in reduced course load will need to contact the Student Insurance Office to ensure that they are still covered by ISU student insurance.

Student’s name: ________________________________

UID Number: ___________________________ Student’s major: ____________________________

Expected completion Date: __________________ Applicable Semester: ______________________

The following reasons are the only acceptable reasons to be enrolled in less than a full course load during a semester and still maintain a valid immigration status.

Your academic advisor must select the reason:

- Improper course placement (allowed only once)
- Initial difficulty with reading requirements (first semester only)
- Initial difficulty with the English language
- Unfamiliar with American teaching methods
- Concurrently enrolled part-time at another institution (attach proof of enrollment)
- Will graduate this semester and taking the last remaining courses to complete degree (allowed only once)
- Graduate student enrolled in only thesis or dissertation
- Illness (Doctor’s note of explanation required) May not exceed 12 months

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Academic Advisor’s name and title (print)

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Academic Advisor’s Signature ___________________________ Department ___________________________ Date ___________________________

*Full-time Curricular Practical Training is no longer an acceptable reason to enroll less than full-time