The ISO has made this process available for electronic submission on the ISO Gateway!

- Click on the link above, sign in under the Full Client Services for Students & Scholars sections by clicking the BLUE “Login” button
- Click on the Student Services tab on the left-hand side to submit your request

It’s fast, easy, and you can do it from anywhere! No paper form to turn in at the ISO!

Paper form submissions for this request will no longer be accepted after August 27, 2018.
**Request for permission to engage in a Reduced Course Load**

*(Note: Approval from an ISO advisor must be granted and reported to the DHS PRIOR to engaging in a reduced course load)*

U.S. government regulations stipulate that all international students in **F-1 or J-1 status** must maintain full-time enrollment (12 credits for undergraduate and 9 credits for graduate students each semester (excluding authorized summer vacations). Requests should be submitted prior to the start of the semester. A student who drops below full time without PRIOR approval from an ISO advisor will be considered out of status.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Name: ______________________</th>
<th>First Name: ______________________</th>
<th>Middle Name: _______________________</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student I.D. #: _____ - _____ - _____</td>
<td>Immigration Status: ______________</td>
<td>Credit hours currently enrolled (for semester of request): _____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree Level: ____________________</td>
<td>Major: __________________________</td>
<td>School: __________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anticipated Date of Graduation: __________</td>
<td>Semester/Year of Request: ______________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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GW is legally required to verify the academic enrollment status of all international students each term. Authorizations for a reduced course load must be reported to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) through SEVIS along with information on the reason, the dates of the authorization, and the start date of the next term. DHS must be notified when the student has resumed full time enrollment. The Academic Advisor is responsible for evaluating the student’s academic record and for providing supporting certification as to the accuracy and validity of reasons cited below, if applicable. DHS allows the ISO to authorize a reduced course load **exclusively for reasons listed below**. Please note that DHS does not consider financial difficulties or the unavailability of certain courses as valid reasons for enrolling for less than full-time.

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**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE STUDENT’S ACADEMIC ADVISOR, FACULTY ADVISOR AND ACADEMIC DEAN:**

*I recommend that this student be authorized to drop below full time enrollment for the semester listed above, based on the following reason(s) and attached explanations. A supplementary letter of support from the academic advisor (on letterhead) must be attached when based on academic difficulties or final term. A supplementary letter of support from a doctor must be attached when based on medical conditions.*

- **Academic Difficulties.** During their course of study, an F-1 student may only be authorized on **ONE** occasion (excluding authorized summer vacations) to drop below full-time due to academic difficulties and must resume full time enrollment at the start of the next available semester. A reduced course load must consist of at least six credits for undergraduate and graduate students.
  - Has initial English language deficiencies that make full time registration unreasonable.
  - has initial difficulties with the English language or reading requirements.
  - is unfamiliar with U.S. teaching methods.
  - Was improperly placed in ___________. It is now too late in the current semester to add another course. The student will resume full time studies in the next available term.

- **Final Term.** Is expected to complete all degree requirements by the end of this semester and has no other courses or requirements. *(If you are engaged in a Thesis or Dissertation credits, please submit a Full Time Certification Form instead of using this form.)*

- **Medical Condition.** Has a medical condition that forces him/her to reduce or interrupt a full course of study. Authorizations for part-time enrollment based on medical conditions may not exceed an aggregate of twelve (12) months. The student must provide current medical documentation for each semester and an ISO advisor must reauthorize the drop below full time for each semester. A letter from the licensed medical doctor, doctor of osteopathy, or licensed clinical psychologist. must be attached. The letter should include: (a) a brief description of the medical condition (b) specific recommendation that the student reduce their course load due to the medical conditions.

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Based on my review of the student’s record, I hereby certify that the reason for the exemption from full-time status is correct.

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**Name of ISO/DSO**

**Signature**

**Date**

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**International Services Office**

1922 F STREET, N.W. ● Suite 205 ● WASHINGTON, DC 20052 ● (202) 994-4477 ● FAX: (202) 994-4488 ● E-MAIL: iso@gwu.edu