Important Information for International Students

1. All international students must report any change to local or international address within one week.

2. All international students must pursue a full course of study.
   - Graduate students – full time enrollment for a maximum of four semesters
   - Undergraduate students – full time enrollment for a maximum of eight semesters

   Exceptions to full course of study:
   - Documented illness or medical condition (12 months maximum per program)
   - Unfamiliarity with U.S. teaching methods – students must speak to Dean Chin for approval during the first term. If a student is granted reduced course load for academic difficulty, he or she must resume a full time course load in the next available term. This is not an option for the second year.

3. Changing majors or program of study
   - A student wanting to change his or her major or program must submit an application and provide new financial documentation. Once the change has been approved, the student will receive a new I-20. Please see Katie Drago, Assistant Dean of Admissions and Student Services, for more information.

4. Employment
   - It is fine to work part-time on-campus. You do not need authorization from a Designated School Official (DSO), and you are allowed to work up to 20 hours per week while school is in session. You may not work off-campus in your first year of study in the U.S.
   - Curricular Practical Training (CPT): “An F-1 student must have been lawfully enrolled on a full time basis for one full academic year to be eligible for CPT.” CPT allows you to work off-campus in your field while you are in school. You must have authorization from a DSO before the work begins. See Stephanie Mao, Admission and Student Services Coordinator, for more information.
   - Optional Practical Training (OPT): You can apply to do a year of OPT at the end of your course of study. Contact Stephanie Mao to begin the application process two to three months prior to the end of your final semester. While on OPT, you must work in your field of study, and you may not have more than 90 days of unemployment during the OPT period. Only students who have engaged in CPT may apply for OPT.

5. Travel
   - Always travel with a valid passport or travel document and your I-20. Check to make sure the DSO’s signature on page 2 of your I-20 is within the last 12 months if you are a current student or within the last 6 months if you are on OPT. If the signature has expired, please ask a DSO to sign your I-20 before travel.
   - To reenter the U.S. after international travel, you must have a valid F-1 visa (unless exempt from passport and visa requirements).

6. Grace Periods for Leaving the U.S.
   - 60 days beyond the completion date on your I-20 (or the actual completion date, if earlier than the date on the I-20)
   - 60 days beyond the completion date of Optional Practical Training following the completion of study
   - 15 days following a withdrawal
   - No employment is allowed during the during grace period