

# Certification for Reduced Course Load for F-1 Students

TO BE COMPLETED BY ACADEMIC ADVISOR

The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service requires all international students holding the F-1 visa classification to be enrolled in a "full course of study" in order to maintain lawful status in the country. "A full course of study" as defined in the Immigration Regulations consists of:

- (a) for graduate students: at least 9 hours per semester.
- (b) for undergraduate students: at least 12 hours per semester.
- (c) for Intensive English Language students: at least 18 clock hours of attendance per week.

There are a few very specific situations which justify enrollment in fewer hours than the number set forth in the Regulations. The academic justifications are set forth below. The medical justification is on the reverse side of this form. Please advise as to whether

Name \_\_\_\_\_ NU ID Number \_\_\_\_\_

meets any of the exceptions to the 'full course study' requirements by checking an appropriate response below:

**PLEASE MARK ONE REASON ONLY**

- 1. Academic Difficulties (**permitted only once per degree/program level**)---check either a, b or c:
    - a. Student is in first semester and has difficulties with the English language or reading requirements.
    - b. Student is unfamiliar with American teaching methods.
    - c. Student was placed at an improper course level.
  - 2. Student is in final semester and needs fewer hour to complete program.
  - 3. \*Student is working full-time on Master's thesis and is registered for at least one hour (**permitted only once per masters degree program**).
  - 4. \*Student is officially a doctoral candidate, is registered for at least one hour and is working full-time on dissertation requirements in accordance with the regulations of the Graduate College.
- \*Student must apply for Full Time Certification with Graduate Studies at <http://research.unl.edu/gradstudies/fulltime/>**
- 5. Student is registered throughout this semester for coursework at another institution ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) that fulfills UNL degree requirements and which, combined with coursework here, comprises a full course of study. **(Please attach proof of registration.)**
  - 6. Medical Reasons (**Student should have Medical Certification for Less-Than-Full Time Student Status completed.**)

**PLEASE COMPLETE EACH ITEM BELOW**

<u>Bachelors/Masters/Doctorate</u> Expected Degree (circle one)	_____	_____
	Academic Advisor's Name (printed)	Date
_____	_____ / _____	
Expected Date of Completion	Academic Advisor's e-mail	Phone
_____	_____	_____, 20__
Department	Academic Advisor's Signature	Semester Applicable

Thank you. Please return to:  
International Affairs  
420 University Terrace  
UNL City Campus 0682  
Tel: (402) 472-0324

**Acceptable only  
if returned in  
sealed depart-  
ment envelope.**

International Student Advisor's Initial: \_\_\_\_\_