Top 10 Issues Causing International Students to Lose Legal Status

1. Dropping below a full course of study without prior authorization. A full course of study is described as follows:
   a. Undergraduate students are required to register for and complete a minimum of twelve (12) credit hours each regular semester.
   b. Graduate students
      i. Graduate students who hold a research or teaching assistantship or who are participating in an employment based fellowship program must register for and complete six (6) credit hours each regular semester.
      ii. Graduate students who do not hold a research or teaching assistantship and are not participating in an employment based fellowship are required to register for and complete a minimum of nine (9) credit hours each regular semester.
   c. Students who are beginning their studies at Purdue University during Maymester or during the Summer Session are required to be registered full–time as follows:
      i. 6 credit hours for undergraduates.
      ii. 6 credit hours for graduate/professional students without an assistantship or employment-based fellowship appointment.
      iii. 3 credit hours for graduate/professional students with an assistantship or employment-based fellowship.

   NOTE: A maximum of 3 credit hours per semester of distance learning or “on-line” coursework may count toward meeting these requirements.

   NOTE: Residential Assistantships and/or Counsellorships do not qualify a student for a reduced course load.

2. Failing to complete “incomplete” courses.
   a. Incomplete courses must be completed with a grade that accumulates credit hours. Students who receive an incomplete grade (I) for any course that counts as part of their minimum credit hour requirement (see above) must complete the original course in order to maintain their legal non-immigrant status.

   Note: Retaking a course is NOT the same thing as completing a course.

3. Bursar Drops
   a. Students who fail to pay their fees on time, and whose registration is cancelled for non-payment

4. J-1 students working on campus without permission
   a. J-1 students must have written permission from our office prior to beginning any on or off-campus employment.

5. Withdrawing from school
   a. Students must meet with our office prior to withdrawing from school.

6. Working off-campus without obtaining written permission prior to engaging in employment

7. Working more hours than are allowed (maximum 20 hours per week while school is in session, full time on official school breaks)

8. Failing to formally extend their period of legal stay when necessary
   a. Students must extend their period of legal stay prior to the expiration date shown on their Certificate of Eligibility (I-20 or DS-2019). This information is found on their Certificate of Eligibility.
9. Failing to report to ISS upon arrival to campus
   a. A student who is new to Purdue or who is re-entering Purdue following a required or elective hiatus must check in with our office within 10 days of arriving on campus. New students will not be issued a Purdue University Student ID until after they check in with our office.

10. Becoming academically ineligible to continue one’s program.

   Have questions? Contact ISS at 494-5770 M-F 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.