



International Students, Welcome to Valpo (or Welcome Back)!

We in the Office of International Programs (OIP) are thrilled to welcome more than 70 new students to Valpo this semester (many of them pictured above at orientation), and we are always happy to see the continuing students back on campus as well!

First, please note that the OIP open hours for the Spring 2022 semester will be **9am-4:00pm, Monday through Friday**. During those times, if you have something to pick up at the OIP front desk, you can walk in to do that. You can also request to make a future appointment with an OIP staff member, or to see them at that time if they are available. **Remember, it's best to make an appointment beforehand** to ensure that the person you need to talk to will be available when you come.

Now, as we get started in this Spring 2022 term, please take note of these important points about maintaining your legal F-1/J-1 immigration status.

Full-time Enrollement

As an international student in F-1 or J-1 status, you must register for a full-time load of credit hours each Spring (and Fall) semester to maintain your legal F-1 or J-1 status.

- At least **12 credits** for undergraduate (bachelors) students
- At least **9 credits** for graduate (masters/doctorate) students

IMPORTANT: Please note that you must also **complete** a full time load. (For example, if you are a bachelors student, even if you start the semester with 12 credits, you are not allowed to then drop to 10 before the end of the semester.)

Online/On-campus Class Rules for Spring 2022

For the Spring 2022 semester, **only one online or distance learning course may be counted toward full time enrollment** for students in F-1 or J-1 status.

For example, if an undergraduate student is taking the minimum of 12 credits, only 1 class out of those 12 credits is allowed to be online. For graduate students, only 1 class out of the minimum 9 credits can be online. Beyond the minimum required credits, extra classes are allowed to be online.

If you are a sponsored or exchange student, your sponsor or home university may have extra regulations about whether or not you are allowed to take online classes, so be sure to also follow those policies.

Please [see this page on our website](#) or [contact an OIP advisor](#) if you have any questions about whether or not a particular class is considered to be online/on-campus. Some classes listed as "hybrid" are considered to be on-campus or online, depending on various factors about the class, so make sure you clarify which it is.

Reduced Course Load for Final Semester

If you are in your final term, e.g. you will complete **ALL** required credits for your degree by May 2022, you may take only what remains for your degree in the Spring 2022 semester, even if it is less than 9 or 12 credits. However, **you must fill out the "Reduced Course Load (RCL)" e-form on iValpo** (under "F-1 Student Services") so that we have a record that Spring 2022 is your final term.

If you are below full-time because of completion of your course of study, **be very careful and make sure you will not have to stay longer than this semester to complete your degree requirement**, or else you may have future problems with your immigration status.

If Spring 2022 is truly your final term and you will complete all degree requirements and graduate by May 2022, please read [these reminders](#) carefully.

Address Update Reminder

Returning students, if your local US residential address has changed since last semester, **please let us know through submitting the Local U.S. Address Change e-form** on [iValpo](#) (under the Biographical Information tab).

Also, check these important notes:

- If you have **withdrawn or will withdraw** from VU or are taking a leave of absence, please contact Janice Lin (janice.lin@valpo.edu) immediately.
- If you have an **off-campus internship/practicum**, you must register for the internship course and obtain CPT authorization from our office **before** starting the internship/practicum. For an **on-campus internship** over 20 hours/week, you will also need to receive CPT authorization. [Click here](#) for more details on Curriculum Practical Training (CPT).
- **If your status is not F-1 or J-1**, please email international@valpo.edu to let us know.

Thank you, and all the best for a great semester ahead! Don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

(OIP Staff page, international@valpo.edu)



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