

Overview

International Student Request for Reduced Course Load for a Medical Condition

Notes on Reduced Course Load

The student, who is in the US on an F-1 visa, is required to maintain a full course load every semester (see previous page).

In certain documented circumstances, an international student may remain in the US without meeting this requirement. This student is seeking a Reduced Course Load for a medical condition and “must provide medical documentation from a licensed medical doctor, doctor of osteopathy, or licensed clinical psychologist, to the DSO to substantiate the illness or medical condition” to receive the authorization. The student can reduce enrollment down to zero credit hours if it is deemed medically necessary.

The International Center will accept documentations only from doctors/providers in Boston metropolitan area.

For HIPAA reasons we do not ask for medical information but do request your issue a brief letter on your letterhead confirming your recommendation for student to be enrolled for a reduced course load (less than 12 credits = part time) or recommending that s/he takes no courses in a specific semester. If the student permits, the inclusion any documentation of the medical condition is welcome, however it is not required. The letter should be on letterhead, dated, and signed by a licensed medical doctor, doctor of osteopathy, or licensed clinical psychologist, and the recommendation has to be for a specific semester.

Code of Federal Regulations

214.2(f)(6)(iii)(B)

(B) Medical conditions. The DSO may authorize a reduced course load (or, if necessary, no course load) due to a student's temporary illness or medical condition for a period of time not to exceed an **aggregate of 12 months** while the student is pursuing a course of study at a particular program level. In order to authorize a reduced course load based upon a medical condition, the **student must provide medical documentation from a licensed medical doctor, doctor of osteopathy, or licensed clinical psychologist, to the DSO to substantiate the illness or medical condition.** The student must provide current medical documentation and the DSO must reauthorize the drop below full course of study each new term, session, or semester. A student previously authorized to drop below a full course of study due to illness or medical condition for an aggregate of 12 months may not be authorized by a DSO to reduce his or her course load on subsequent occasions while pursuing a course of study at the same program level. A student may be authorized to reduce course load for a reason of illness or medical condition on more than one occasion while pursuing a course of study, so long as the aggregate period of that authorization does not exceed 12 months.

The request for authorization for reduced course load due to medical condition is granted for one semester only. A new authorization should be submitted before the start date of every semester.