

Online Course Information for Graduate Students

Graduate F-1/J-1 Students Taking Online Courses at BGSU During the Academic Year (August through May)

The United States Code of Federal Regulations for international F-1 status students and J-1 Student Category states that *only one class per semester during the academic year may be taken online towards the full-time credit hour requirement*. That is, Bowling Green State University currently requires eight credit hours for graduate students to be considered full-time during per each semester of the academic year. Therefore, if a student is taking eight credit hours, the maximum numbers of hours that may be taken online during each semester is three. Online courses are coded as “Web-based” in the BGSU registration system. Courses that are “Web-centric” (designated as at least 50% face-to-face) are **not** considered online and do **not** count towards the limit of one class per semester.¹

International graduate students enrolled in over eight hours of course work are free to take the additional credit hours in whichever manner best suits their program. For example, if a student takes five credit hours of face-to-face or web-centric courses, they may take six credit hours of online courses and still be in compliance with federal regulations.

Note of Caution: Students that are sponsored by third parties for financial assistance may have additional requirements restricting online course work. Please see the link [here](#) for an example of the Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission requirements.

Graduate F-1/J-1 Students Taking Online Courses at BGSU During the Summer (May through August)

The academic year is defined as the Fall and Spring semesters. International students may take as many online courses over the summer as desired because there are no full-time requirements. (Please note that international students must be enrolled full-time in their first term of arrival. International students arriving for their first term during the summer will be required to comply with academic year rules of enrollment for online courses outlined above.)²

¹ Title 8 → Chapter I → Subchapter B → Part 214 (f) “(G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student’s physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing...” Authority: 8 U.S.C. 1101, 1102, 1103, 1182, 1184, 1186a, 1187, 1221, 1281, 1282, 1301-1305 and 1372; sec. 643, Pub. L. 104-208, 110 Stat. 3009-708; Public Law 106-386, 114 Stat. 1477-1480; section 141 of the Compacts of Free Association with the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and with the Government of Palau, 48 U.S.C. 1901 note, and 1931 note, respectively; 48 U.S.C. 1806; 8 CFR part 2.

² Title 8 → Chapter I → Subchapter B → Part 214 (f) “(B) Undergraduate study at a college or university, certified by a school official to consist of at least twelve semester or quarter hours of instruction per academic term in those institutions using standard semester, trimester, or quarter hour systems, where all undergraduate students who are enrolled for a minimum of twelve semester or quarter hours are charged full-time tuition...” Authority: 8 U.S.C. 1101, 1102, 1103, 1182, 1184, 1186a, 1187, 1221, 1281, 1282, 1301-1305 and 1372; sec. 643, Pub. L. 104-208, 110 Stat. 3009-708; Public Law 106-386, 114 Stat. 1477-1480; section 141 of the Compacts of Free Association with the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and with the Government of Palau, 48 U.S.C. 1901 note, and 1931 note, respectively; 48 U.S.C. 1806; 8 CFR part 2.