ONLINE ENROLLMENT POLICY

As discussed below, federal immigration regulations govern the amount of coursework that international students can enroll in each semester.

Undergraduate Students

International undergraduate students must enroll in at least 12 credit hours of coursework per semester in order to be considered enrolled in a “full course of study” and maintain valid student status for immigration purposes. At least 9 of those 12 credit hours must be in face-to-face, in-person instruction in a classroom [8 C.F.R. 214.2(f)(6)(i)(G)]. Students can enroll in multiple online classes if they choose, as long as they have at least 9 credit hours of face-to-face instruction per semester.

Graduate Students

International graduate students must enroll in at least 9 credit hours of coursework per semester in order to be considered enrolled in a “full course of study” and maintain valid student status for immigration purposes. At least 6 of those 9 credit hours must be in face-to-face, in-person instruction in a classroom [8 C.F.R. 214.2(f)(6)(i)(G)]. Students can enroll in multiple online classes if they choose, as long as they have at least 6 credit hours of face-to-face instruction per semester.

Less-than-full-time enrollment can be authorized only in very specific and limited circumstances, and only with ISSS approval. For more information, review the Reduced Course Load Forms on the “Forms and Information Sheets” page of our website:

http://www.uab.edu/global/international-students-and-scholars/students/forms-info-sheets

Online Enrollment During Final Term of Study

PLEASE NOTE: If you need only one class in your final semester in order to graduate, that class must be in face-to-face, classroom instruction. In other words, if you need only one class in your final semester in order to graduate, that class cannot be online. Work with your advisor ahead of time to plan accordingly. You can enroll in an online class during your final semester only if you are also enrolled in a face-to-face, classroom instruction class as well. As an example, if you need 6 credit hours to graduate during your final semester, you can take one 3-credit online class and one 3-credit face-to-face class and submit a Reduced Course Load Form-Final Term for ISSS approval.

As always, please email isss@uab.edu with any questions or concerns.