

International Students Request for Reduce Course Load (RCL)

General Information: A request for part-time attendance **REQUIRES** approval from the Graduate School (graduate students only), Dean of the College (undergraduate student only), **and the Office of International Students and Scholars**. If your reason for requesting a reduced course load is not described in the list below, the Office of International Students and Scholars **MUST** reject your petition.

Please Note

- **Academic Difficulties:** can only be granted once per educational/degree level. The student's advisor must submit documentation substantiating the academic reason. Students who are granted part-time under academic difficulties are expected to resume a full-course of study in the next available term (except the summer term). If the student has already been granted part-time for academic difficulty (even at another school), at the current academic level, then the student cannot request part-time again under academic difficulty.
- **Completing the Current Term and/or Graduation:** If fewer courses than normal are needed to complete the course of study, the Designated School Official (DSO) can authorize part-time during the final term. Part-time approval for this reason can be used only once. If a student does not graduate by the end of the term, the student must register for a full-course of study for the next available term (except during the summer term).

“A student that requires an official RCL determination may not take “0” courses (i.e. CRG) during the final term. Even if the school continues to enroll the student for **administrative** reasons the student who will complete all requirements for the degree must: (1) apply for OPT, or (2) apply for a change of status to some other classification, or (3) depart the United States.”

- **Temporary Illness and/or Medical Condition:** A reduced course load (part-time) or leave of absence (if necessary) can be approved for a student due to a temporary illness or medical condition. It can only be approved for a total of 12 months (2 consecutive academic semesters). A request for medical reasons requires documentation from a licensed medical doctor (e.g., osteopathy, licensed clinical psychologist, psychiatrist, etc.). A student previously authorized 12 months of part-time due to illness or medical reason may not be authorized to reduce his or her course of study again, at the same program level. Documentation substantiating the medical condition must be submitted every semester. If more time is needed for the student to recuperate from the medical condition, USCIS expects the student to change status or leave the country.

PLEASE DO NOT REQUEST REDUCE COURSE LOAD IF YOUR REASONS INCLUDE:

- Lack of funding
- Class is not offered in a given semester

Date Submitted: _____

Student's Last name: _____, First name: _____

URI ID #: _____ E-mail: _____

Reduced Course Load request: **(select one only)**

Fall 2009 2010 2011 2012
 Spring 2009 2010 2011 2012

Leave of absence **(select one only):**

Fall 2009 2010 2011 2012
 Spring 2009 2010 2011 2012

Student requests less than a full course load (part-time) for the following reason *(select one only)*:

ACADEMIC DIFFICULTIES: *(select one):*

- Initial difficulty with the English language
- Initial difficulty with the reading requirements
- Unfamiliarity with American Teaching methods
- Improper course level placement

TO COMPLETE COURSE OF STUDY IN CURRENT TERM

ILLNESS OR MEDICAL CONDITION: The student will enroll in ____ credits.

STUDENT STUDYING OR INTERNING ABROAD

Print Name of Academic Advisor/
Department Dean or Chair Signature of Academic Advisor/
Department Dean or Chair E-mail _____

Print Dean of Graduate School Signature of Dean of Graduate School E-mail _____

-----**Office of International Students and Scholars use only**-----

Reviewed by: _____ Noted in SEVIS: on ____/____/____
(Name of DSO)