

# International Student Responsibilities

## M-1 Status

In response to national security concerns, changes in government policy and regulations pertaining to international students and foreign nationals can occur very rapidly. Although every effort will be made to notify you of these changes, USCIS hold the student responsible for maintaining his or her status at all times.

- General Guidelines**
- You must report to Chattahoochee Technical College's International Services with *passport, I-94, stamped I-20, and any other immigration document* within the first two weeks of the beginning of your first semester. USCIS requires CTC to maintain copies of these documents in your file.
  - **Student must register for a full course of study, meaning a minimum of 12 credit hours.**
  - Student must report any change in immigration status to International Services.
- Duration of Stay**
- USCIS approves the international student on M-1 visa and /or M-1 status for 12 months. You will find the expiration date on the I-94 and/or on the top right hand corner of the I-20 student copy.
- Extension of Stay**
- Students who are unable to complete their program of study by the expiration date of their I-20 must apply for an extension ***before*** the date of completion indicated on the current I-20. You must apply for extension up to 60 days but no less than 15 days before expiration date. If the date has expired and the extension has not been requested, the student is considered out of status and if eligible, may apply for reinstatement.
  - M-1 status must be renewed every 12 months.
- No Show Policy**
- A "no show" is a student whose name appears on the class roster but who fails to attend class the first time after his/her name appears on the roll. Any student reported as a "no show" by an instructor will be administratively withdrawn from the class.
  - "No shows" shall receive a 100% refund of applicable tuition (hours below 15-hour tuition cap) and applicable refundable fees, excluding the application fee.
    - Any student receiving financial aid who is reported as a "no show" will have his/her financial aid award for that class cancelled. All financial aid awards based on courses that students do not attend will be cancelled, and the student will be responsible for any applicable charges.
- Dropping Classes**
- International students cannot drop below a full course of study during any term. There are a few circumstances under which a student may be authorized to enroll less than fulltime or withdraw from a class; however, **prior approval** from International Services must be obtained.
  - Students must notify International Services of any emergency or medical problem beyond their control necessitating a request to drop courses or drop out of school for the term. Without permission from International Services and documentation in the file, a student dropping below a full course of study will be reported to USCIS.
  - If you drop out of school, USCIS requires you leave the United States immediately with no grace period. You will automatically be considered out of student status.
- Changing Majors**
- Students cannot change majors.
- Address changes**
- Students are required to notify the school and USCIS of any changes in address or telephone number within 10 days of this change.
- Vacations**
- CTC's academic year is divided into semester terms. You are required to enroll for 12 or more credit hours each fall and spring semester. Summer semester is optional to register and is the designated vacation term for international students.

- If you need to leave the United States temporarily, you must have the following documentation to re-enter the U.S.
  - A valid passport.
  - A valid M-1 entry visa stamped in the passport.
  - A current USCIS form I-20 signed by International Services. Form I-20 must be signed ***each time*** a student wishes to temporarily travel outside the United States.
  - A new USCIS form I-20 if there has been any substantive changes in your course of study or places of study.
  - Proof of your financial support.

**Employment** M-1 students have limited work opportunities with Optional Practical Training which ***requires prior authorization*** from DSO and USCIS. Contact International Services for advisement. **WORKING WITHOUT USCIS APPROVAL IS A DEPORTABLE OFFENSE.**

**Online Classes** Students are not allowed to take online classes.

**Changing Schools** Students may not transfer schools after six months enrollment in M-1 status unless school transfer is necessary because of reasons beyond the students' control.

**English Proficiency** You must notify International Services if you find during the first semester your limited English is causing academic problems.

**Abbreviations and Definitions**

- **Fulltime student status:** A full course of study is defined as a minimum of 12 credit hours.
- **SEVIS:** Student and Exchange Visitor Information System.
- **USCIS:** United States Citizenship and Immigration Service.
- **DSO:** Designated School Officer.

Signature below signifies that I have read and understand my responsibilities as an international student. I will retain this copy for reference purposes. The original document will stay in my student file.

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Signature

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Print Name

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Date

*Questions regarding the immigration policy and regulations, international admissions, and student service issues should be directed to International Services.*

Chattahoochee Technical College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award associate degrees. Inquiries related to the college's accreditation by the Commission may be directed to SACS/COC, 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or telephone 404-679-4500. Questions related to admissions and the policies, programs, and practices of Chattahoochee Technical College should be directed to the College.

Chattahoochee Technical College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age or disability. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: the Chattahoochee Technical College Title IX Coordinator Dianne Lassai Barker, 5198 Ross Road, Room 132P, Acworth, GA 30102, (770) 975-4023 or (678) 756-0970, or [Dianne.Barker@ChattahoocheeTech.edu](mailto:Dianne.Barker@ChattahoocheeTech.edu), and the Chattahoochee Technical College Section 504/ADA Coordinator Mary Frances Bernard, 980 South Cobb Drive, Building G1106, Marietta, GA 30060, (770) 528-4529, or [MaryFrances.Bernard@ChattahoocheeTech.edu](mailto:MaryFrances.Bernard@ChattahoocheeTech.edu).