



International Student Program
Rules to Remember

- 1. Unauthorized Employment** – Avoid unauthorized employment. U.S. immigration laws restrict international student employment. Employers don't know all the rules, so it is your responsibility to be informed. Information on the rules is available from the International Counselor. Be sure to meet with the International Counselor if you have any questions. Unauthorized employment might be easy and convenient now, but it could be a problem later. It is illegal! Note: F-2 dependents are *never* authorized to work.
- 2. Full-time Student Status** –Immigration law requires international students to pursue a full course of study (at least 12 units each semester) during the fall and spring semesters, except in the last semester of the academic program. Summer and early spring are the only times that you can choose not to enroll or to enroll part-time. Check with the International Counselor for exceptions to this rule. Also, do not withdraw, drop a class, or discontinue studies without consulting the International Counselor first. Although the academic department may approve a change in your enrollment, the change could cause you to jeopardize your legal immigration status.
- 3. Health Insurance** –International students must maintain valid health insurance at all times.
- 4. Immigration Rules** –Immigration rules are subject to change. Don't rely on advice from a friend! Check with the International Counselor for current regulations and an immigration attorney, if needed.
- 5. Student I-20s** –The program completion date on your I-20 (#5 on the I-20) is important! Do not let the completion date expire without asking for an extension, if necessary. Apply for the extension at the International Student Programs office one month before the document expires if you cannot complete your program by that date. If you complete your program early, the document is no longer valid unless you have applied for, and received employment authorization for Optional Practical Training (OPT). F-1 students have a sixty (60) day grace period after completion of their academic program or OPT.
- 6. Transfer Students** – Students transferring to Monterey Peninsula College from another college in the U.S. must bring the new I-20 to the International Student Programs office for processing. Failure to do this is a violation of immigration law.
- 7. Passport** –Be sure to keep your passport valid at all times.



8. Travel Outside The U.S. –Before you travel outside the U.S., be sure that the International Counselor or DSO signs your I-20, and remember to bring all of your travel documents with you on your trip.

9. Off-campus Employment – You may not work off campus unless you have been approved by Homeland Security and MPC for Optional Practical Training or special economic relief conditions- Severe Economic Hardship.

10. Changes To Contact Information –Report each and every change of address, email, and/or telephone number to the International Student Programs office within 10 days.

11. Income Tax Forms -Fill out yearly income tax forms if you are on CPT, OPT or student on-campus employment and send them to the Internal Revenue Service.

12. Answering Immigration Questions –Give truthful answers on any application form and to questions a Homeland Security officer may ask you.

Violation of status may result in the cancellation of your F-1 student visa (the one in your passport). If you find that you have violated your status, see your International Counselor as soon as possible. Failure to reinstate in a timely manner may result in your being barred from reentering the U.S. for three (3) to ten (10) years.

7/2019