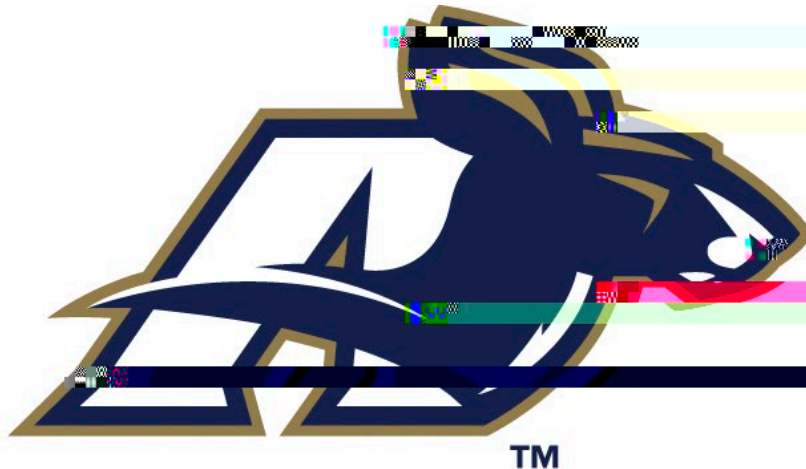


# F-1

# Student

# Handbook

The U.S. immigration system is complicated!  
This is a guide to help you understand it better and avoid future problems  
during your journey in this country .



Please contact our office if you have any questions about the information in this packet .

The International Center  
Simmons Hall, Suite 205  
The University of Akron  
Phone: 33072-6349  
Email: [immigration@uakron.edu](mailto:immigration@uakron.edu)

Last revised 7/28/2022

# Important Definitions

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## SEVIS – The Student & Exchange Visitor Information System

This is the information database used by the Department of Homeland Security and Department of State to monitor international students and exchange visitors here in the United States.

Designated School Officials (DSOs) and certain U.S. government employees are the only individuals that have access to SEVIS. Only DSOs are allowed to update your record with any new information.

USCIS – United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (U-2 (SC)-9-083 Th 4 0 Td (T 5 09 0 Td T-0003 JBC -0005)-raa.16iCa 2 J 0005 ciony r

\*Graduate students enrolled in at least one graduate credit hour are considered full time if they provide confirmation that they are:

- A doctoral student in their final semester of study, who has completed all degree requirements except the dissertation, or
- A student participating in an authorized Curricular Practical Training of 30 or more hours per week.

Students that wish to be considered full time for one of the above mentioned reasons must submit a completed *Request to be Considered Full-time with Less than Nine Credit Hours* form to the Graduate School.

**Online/Distance Learning Limits:** Students may only take 3 credits one course per semester that is online or distance learning (more can be taken if you have fulfilled the 9 or 12 credit hour requirement for that semester). If it is your last semester and you only need one course, it cannot be celebrated.

\*Exceptions 5003 (or) Tj/TT0 Tf(t)-3400 -Td(o)-9A3 (n)-09 (l)-58)-5(y n)-00005wJ/TT005w 3756)lg leEc23-09 (l)-9A3 (





Contact the International Center if you:

- are from a country potentially affected by the “Travel Ban,”
- plan to travel during OPT while your OPT application is pending
- will be traveling for an extended time period during the academic year,
- have other questions about your specific situation.

## I-20 Travel Signature

For current students, travel signatures are valid for one year or the end of your academic program, whichever time period is shorter. For students on OPT, the travel signature is valid for 6 months. For a travel signature, please submit a completed Travel Signature Request form to our office with your I-20 and allow three business days for processing. The following DSOs on campus are authorized to sign the I-20:

Jung Shin, Emily Aronson, Robyn Brown, and Nicola Kille

## Abide by Laws

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You are required to follow all criminal and civil laws governing the jurisdiction(s) in which you are living, attending school, and traveling. This includes federal, state, and city laws, regulations, and ordinances about:

Filing annual tax returns;  
Alcohol, tobacco, and drug  
Driving;

Immigration;  
Violence (including domestic violence); and  
Firearm possession

## Visa Revocation

If you are arrested, your visa may be revoked. Discuss your situation with the International Center right away if you have been charged with a crime, especially if you are planning to travel outside the U.S.

## Stay Aware of Important Updates

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Please be sure to check your UA email account regularly to receive updates from the International Center. This is the primary way we communicate.