

# STUDENT LIFE

Campus Ministries	
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Campus Safety	
<i>Seminary Drive</i>	471-3321
Career Planning and Placement	
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Counseling and Testing Center	
<i>Bell Hall (Education Building)</i>	471-3470
Graduate Student Association	
<i>Bell Hall (Education Building)</i>	471-6606
Housing	
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<i>Men's Residence Halls—Meier/Burman</i>	471-3390
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International Student Services	
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Intramural Hot-Line	
<i>Johnson Gymnasium</i>	471-3434
Office of Student Services	
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Services for Students with Disabilities	
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The university is concerned with educating the whole person—mentally, physically, spiritually, and socially—based on the philosophy of Adventist education. It recognizes that one's career can neither be complete nor balanced without ample provision for spiritual, cultural, and social needs. Therefore, many activities not directly related to the instructional program are available. Each student has an opportunity to take part in those of his/her special interest.

## STUDENT HOUSING

Andrews University offers several choices of living quarters to meet students' needs.

**Residence Halls.** The university maintains two men's residence halls (Meier Hall and Burman Hall) and one women's residence hall (Lamson Hall). Double-occupancy rooms are standard. Private occupancy is permitted by special request, if space allows, for an additional fee.

**Apartments and Houses for Rent.** The university owns approximately 300 apartments and 14 small unfurnished houses. These are available to married students and single-parent students. Efficiency apartments in the Garland complex are available to single graduates or single undergraduates who are 22 years of age or older. Accommodations are available only to those who have been officially accepted as university students. Since apartments are limited, applicants are advised to apply six to nine months before their first semester of studies.

Most apartments are furnished. Tenants must supply their own linen, draperies, and culinary utensils. Unfurnished apartments have a stove and refrigerator. Heavy furniture and pianos may be

placed in the apartments only by prior arrangement with the housing manager. Pianos may be used on ground floors only. Pets are not allowed in university apartments or houses. The Housing Office provides apartment descriptions, rental rates, and application forms upon request. Further information on university housing may be obtained through the *University Housing Handbook* available from the Housing Office. Please visit the web site at [www.andrews.edu/HOUSING](http://www.andrews.edu/HOUSING) for applications and further information.

**Other Accommodations.** Many area landlords have their names and phone numbers on record at the Housing Office. Students may consult or copy this list.

## NON-RESIDENCE HALL HOUSING POLICY

Andrews University is operated primarily as a residential college on the undergraduate level.

Before students will be able to register for classes or make financial arrangements for off-campus housing, such as signing leases or giving deposits, they **MUST** obtain approval from the Office of Student Services.

All single undergraduate students **who are under 22 years of age** are required to live in one of the University residence halls **unless they meet the following criteria:**

1. Freshman (completed 0-24 credit hours)  
Sophomore (25-56 credit hours):  
living with their parents.
2. Junior (completed 57-86 credit hours)  
Senior (completed 87 or more credit hours):  
living with parents OR living with a 'host family.'  
In these cases you will be asked to submit a parental letter of support or an agreement with head of household.
3. Must be in good and regular standing and manifest a willingness to abide by the regulations of the University both at the time of the application and after the off-campus housing request has been approved.

**Note:** Re-application of such requests must be made EACH school year.

Students living in non-residence hall housing are expected to abide by the standards/conduct codes outlined in both the Student Handbook and in this extension of the non-residence hall housing policy. As the Off-Campus Housing Request states, the landlord must notify the Dean of Students of any irregularities, changes of address, or conduct concerns.

## MOTOR VEHICLES

Any student who is not on citizenship probation and who meets the requirements for vehicle registration, licensing, and insurance as outlined below and as specified in the motor-vehicle regulations is allowed to own and operate a motor vehicle.

**Vehicle Registration.** All motor vehicles must be registered with the Campus Safety Department within two weeks after the vehicle is brought to the campus or after it is acquired. Decals, issued when a vehicle is registered, must be affixed within 24 hours after being issued. Failure to register a motor vehicle within the specified two weeks and failure to display properly the decal after it has been issued may result in a fine.

**Auto Licensing.** An understanding exists between most state governments to the effect that *bona fide* students, not locally employed, attending an out-of-state accredited or recognized school may use

their home state license plates and operating license during the period of their attendance at such an institution. State license plates and operating licenses may be renewed during attendance if necessary.

**Auto Insurance.** All vehicles must be covered with public liability and property damage insurance. The insurance must remain in effect as long as the vehicle is in the university community. Expiration or cancellation of insurance automatically revokes motor-vehicle registration and privileges. All vehicles must be maintained in legal operating condition at all times. Regulations governing the use of motor vehicles are described in the brochure, *Student Right-to-Know Report*, available from the Campus Safety Office.

Students who receive any pay from local employers must register their motor vehicles and obtain a Michigan driver's license and license plates.

### FOOD SERVICE

Food service facilities are located in the Student Center. The Terrace Café (cafeteria on the upper level) has three dining rooms—Badger, Lincoln, and Wolverine—which seat approximately 600 people. The Gazebo (snack bar on main level) provides fountain grill service. All food in the Gazebo and Terrace Café is vegetarian.

### MEDICAL SERVICES

**Required Medical Records.** Michigan State Law requires all first-time students to supply certain medical records to the school of their choice before registration can be completed. The required records are those for (1) Tuberculosis Screening and (2) Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (German Measles) Immunization (MMR). See the admission section of this bulletin for detailed requirements.

**Available Medical Care.** For health needs students may contact University Medical Specialties, located next to the Apple Valley Plaza. Phone 473-2222 during regular office hours (8:00 am–5:00 pm, Monday–Thursday, and 8:00 am–12:00 noon, Friday) to schedule appointments.

Physician appointments and nurse visits, as well as most short-term medications, are available to residence-hall students. These services are included in the rent/health plan and are not charged separately to the student. However, charges are made for lab work, X-rays, and accident cases involving third-party liability.

Non-residence-hall students living in the apartments or off-campus housing may also use University Medical Specialties for a fee.

For emergencies outside of regularly scheduled office hours, students may reach a physician at 473-2222.

### HEALTH-RELATED CONCERNS

**Insurance—Sickness/Accident.** Every international student in “student status” and every other student registered for 6 or more credit hours is automatically covered by an Accident and Sickness insurance plan by filling out an enrollment card. The payment for this coverage is charged to the student's account the same as tuition and is non-refundable. Students who have proof of the same kind of insurance coverage elsewhere may waive the university plan by presenting a copy of their insurance card or a letter from an employer verifying coverage, and by signing a waiver card at registration. Coverage for a student's spouse and dependent children is also available for an additional fee. All students from outside of the United States must cover dependents who accompany the student to the States. A brochure describing the insurance coverage is available at the Student Employment/ Insurance Office in the Administration Building. Students will note that this is min-

imal coverage and may want to consider purchasing additional personal coverage.

**Counseling and Testing Center.** The Counseling Center is the primary mental health care facility for the university, serving as a supportive medium aimed at enhancing the positive and learning university environment, as it provides timely and comprehensive short-term counseling to university students and their spouses. Its staff is committed to utilizing all available resources in the delivery of services which include personal, group, pre-marital, and marital counseling, career development, outreach and consultation, teaching and research, training and supervision. The center endorses a wholistic approach in working with students, by facilitating the integration of the emotional, spiritual, physical, and social qualities of the individual.

The Counseling Center is fully accredited by the International Association of Counseling Services (IACS), and serves as a training facility for graduate counseling interns and advanced doctoral students. Career exploration and counseling services are offered to enrolled students at no charge. Psychological testing and career assessment are provided for a nominal fee.

### SPIRITUAL CONCERNS

**Campus Ministry.** As a church-operated university, Andrews University emphasizes personal religion and enables its students to participate in activities that nurture spiritual growth. Members of the pastoral staff of the campus church are available for counseling and campus religious programs. Their offices in the Student Center coordinate these varied programs and provide helpful materials and information to students interested in spiritual growth. The student-missionary and task-force programs and BRANCH (Bringing Andrews to Christ), the student religious-activities organization, are also coordinated through the Campus Ministry Office.

**Chapel and Worship Services.** Students are required to attend the regularly scheduled chapel and assembly programs. Residence-hall students are required to attend residence-hall worships. All students are encouraged to participate in worship services and to consider these appointments an integral part of their curriculum. The University Chapel for undergraduate students meets at 10:30 a.m. in Pioneer Memorial Church (PMC) on Tuesdays. The University Student Forum meets Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. in Johnson Gym unless otherwise announced. Seminary chapel also meets on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. in the Seminary Chapel. Seminary students are required to attend chapel as well as weekend worship services. Other graduate students are urged to participate in chapel services in Pioneer Memorial Church, the Seminary Chapel, or specially scheduled graduate-student chapels.

### CHAPEL/UNIVERSITY FORUM/ASSEMBLY GUIDELINES

**Definition.** Chapel programs are designed to bring the university family together for corporate worship and learning. University Forums/Assemblies are prepared for general and individual enrichment.

Both are integral to the Andrews University educational experience, connecting living and learning, and the building of community.

Chapels and University Forums/Assemblies are planned by the CARL Committee—a team of students, faculty and administrators.

**Attendance.** All undergraduate students are required to attend every Chapel and University Forum/Assembly programs.

CHAPEL: Only **THREE** absences are allowed per semester. A \$25 fine will be assessed on your 4th chapel absence. An additional \$10 will be assessed for EACH absence after your 4th absence.

UNIVERSITY/FORUM ASSEMBLY: Only **THREE** absences are allowed per semester. A maximum of **FOUR** Department Assemblies are recognized. A \$25 fine will be assessed on your 4th University Forum/Assembly absence. An additional \$10 will be assessed for EACH absence after your 4th absence.

The charges are NON-REFUNDABLE.

Excused absences due to illness or emergency with verification are granted by the Office of Student Services. Absences must be cleared within one week of the absence. Failure to meet chapel requirements will also result in appropriate citizenship consequences, i.e., probation, suspension, dismissal.

You may check your attendance record on the Andrews web site, [www.andrews.edu](http://www.andrews.edu). Click on [Current Students](#) and then [Access Your Account](#). After you log-in, click on [View Chapel and Assembly Record](#) under [Student Services and Financial Aid](#).

**Exemption.** Students are rarely exempted from attending Chapel and/or University Forum/Assembly. Only the following exemptions will be granted:

1. Age 25 years or above
2. Graduate student (or pursuing 2nd bachelor degree)
3. Parent with pre-school child(ren)
4. Non-residence hall students with no class on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays

**Note:** Marital status does NOT excuse you from attending chapel and assembly.

## STUDENTS' RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

**Standards of Conduct.** A conscious effort is made to maintain standards of conduct that reflect the spiritual heritage of Seventh-day Adventists. The university also seeks to maintain social standards comparable to those upheld by the Adventist church. It interprets the presence of a student on campus as meaning that he/she has chosen this university because of the lifestyle it upholds. Admission is a privilege that entails acceptance of individual responsibility for honor, integrity and self-discipline. Attendance at the university is also a privilege and not a right.

To safeguard its moral and scholastic atmosphere, the university can ask any student to leave whose presence seems to damage the mission and function of the university, or who persists in violation of established regulations. Such students are told the reason for their dismissal. A student may lose his/her connection with the school without any overt act if he/she is not in accord with its standards and objectives. The use or possession of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, hard drugs or dishonestly acquired or misused prescription drugs; indulging in dishonesty; sexual immorality, physical and sexual assault; vandalism; dancing; profanity or vulgarity; possessing lewd or obscene materials or firearms; or engaging in improper associations, fraternities or sororities are not allowed and may be cause for suspension or dismissal.

The expected standard of conduct is described in the *Student Handbook* and in the Citizenship Agreement segment of the undergraduate application which must be signed by each student prior to registration. Students may obtain a copy of the handbook at the Student Services office (or locate it on the Andrews University web site). Any regulation adopted and published by the administration and announced to the students has the same force as regulations printed in official publications.

**Student Records.** Within certain limitations, enrolled students of Andrews University may inspect their official records upon request at the following offices: Academic Records, Human Resources, Student Financial Services, Student Services, Counseling and Testing Center, departments of instruction, and the University School. The full policy that governs student records and access to them is available in the *Student Handbook*.

**Student Review of Educational Records.** It is the policy of the university that students may inspect and review their educational records and may, if they believe the records are incorrect, seek to have the records corrected through appropriate review procedures. Students who wish to review their academic records should set up an appointment through the Academic Records Office. Students wishing to review their student life records should make an appointment with the Student Services Office.

**Releases to Third Parties.** In accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, Andrews University limits disclosure of educational records or personally identifiable information without the student's written consent, except to agencies having a recognized legal need for the information.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act gives institutions the right to define certain classes of information as directory information. The institution does not have to obtain consent from the student to release this information. Therefore, Andrews University has classified the following as directory information: name, local address, local phone number, major field of study, year in college, E-mail address, dates of attendance, degrees or certificates (with dates), scholarships, honors received, awards received.

Students may restrict the release of all items of directory information. A form for requesting such restriction is available at the Academic Records Office.

Andrews University reserves the right to determine the manner in which directory information may be released or to whom it may be released without the consent of the student.

**Safety Regulations.** Andrews University expects students to develop safe working habits. Students who participate in classes, laboratories, or activities involving situations considered hazardous, as specified by the state or national standards, must provide and wear any such required personal safety equipment.

## STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

**Eligibility Pre-Employment I-9 Form.** Before working on campus, all students (both U.S. citizens and others) must personally have a validation interview with the Student Employment Officer (Administration Building) at which time the officer and the student will make a joint sworn statement on the appropriate I-9 legal declaration form.

**Employment Eligibility Certification.** The Immigration Reform and Control Act charges all employers to examine and verify certain documents that establish the employment eligibility of all new employees. New and returning students who have not completed an I-9 for Andrews University work in the past and who plan to seek any employment on the Andrews University campus must supply documents of identity and employability. Some documents serve for both purposes (List A), but if not available, two documents may be presented (one each from List B and List C). The following are acceptable documents:

**LIST A****Documents That Establish Both Identity and Employment Eligibility:**

- U.S. Passport (unexpired or expired)
- Certificate of U.S. Citizenship (INS Form N-560 or N-561)
- Certificate of Naturalization (INS Form N-550 or N-570)
- Unexpired foreign passport with I-551 stamp or attached INS Form I-94 indicating unexpired employment authorization
- Alien Registration Receipt Card with photograph (INS Form I-151 or I-551). Also known as Green Card or Permanent Residency Card
- Unexpired Temporary Resident Card (INS Form I-688)
- Unexpired Employment Authorization Card (INS Form I-688A)
- Unexpired Reentry Permit (INS Form I-327)
- Unexpired Refugee Travel Document (INS Form I-571)
- Unexpired Employment Authorization Document issued by the INS which contains a photograph (INS Form I-688B)

**LIST B****Documents That Establish Identity:**

- Driver's license or ID card issued by a state or outlying possession of the United States if it contains a photograph or information such as name, date of birth, sex, height, eye color and address
- ID card issued by federal, state, or local government agencies or entities provided it contains a photograph or information such as name, date of birth, sex height, eye color and address
- School ID card with a photograph
- Voter's registration card
- U.S. Military card or draft record
- Military dependent's ID card
- U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Card
- Native American tribal document
- Driver's license issued by a Canadian government authority.

For persons under age 18 who are unable to present an identity document listed above (for List B):

- School report or report card
- Clinic, doctor, or hospital record
- Day-care or nursery school record

**LIST C****Documents That Establish Employment Eligibility:**

- U.S. Social Security card issued by the Social Security Administration (other than a card stating it is not valid for employment)
- Certification of Birth Abroad issued by the Department of State (Form FS-545 or Form DS-1350)
- Original or certified copy of a birth certificate issued by a state, county, municipal authority, or outlying possession of the United States bearing an official seal
- Native American tribal document
- U.S. Citizen ID Card (INS Form I-197)
- Unexpired employment authorization document issued by the INS (other than those listed under LIST A)

*All documents presented must be original.*

Persons not having the required document(s) may have the option of submitting a receipt from an application for a missing document. The applied-for document must be submitted within the stated amount of time. Failure to do so results in immediate suspension from work.

A parent or legal guardian may sign the I-9 form, attesting that the applicant is under age 18. However, such an applicant must present an employment eligibility item from the above list if a document proving both identity and employment eligibility is not available.

**Employment.** The university (an equal opportunity employer) provides work opportunities for students and, when available, their spouses. Work for academy students is limited. Andrews University currently spends more than \$4,000,000 on student-related employment annually. Rates start with the minimum wage rate of the Wage and Hour Law. The university allows students to work, as work is available, up to 20 hours per week during the academic year. Several regional hospitals and a number of schools offer employment to qualified persons. Commercial and manufacturing firms are also located within 12 to 15 miles of the campus. Residence-hall students may not take off-campus employment without permission from the vice president for student services.

Students should schedule regular blocks of time (half days Monday through Friday) to maximize work opportunities. Undergraduate students currently enrolled for a minimum of 12 Andrews credits and graduate students currently enrolled for a minimum of 8 Andrews credits are eligible for on-campus work.

Persons wanting to work on campus may write to the student employment coordinator for further employment information.

**Employment (International Students).** An international student on a non-immigrant F-1 visa is permitted to work on-campus a maximum of 20 hours per week during the school year and full-time during school breaks and vacations. F-1 students can only work off campus with permission from the United States Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS). Dependent F-2s can't work on or off campus under any circumstances.

Exchange Visitor (student) on a non-immigrant J-1 visa is allowed to work on or off campus a maximum of 20 hours per week during the school year and full-time during school breaks and vacations. Dependent J-2s are allowed to work after they receive a work permit called the Employment Authorization Document (EAD) from the USCIS.

**ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS**

The university encourages students to participate in as many extracurricular activities and organizations as their study-work loads permit. Experience gained in working with others to achieve common goals provides invaluable training. Some of the more prominent campus organizations and activities are described below. A complete list of campus organizations is available from the Student Services office.

**Andrews University Student Association (AUSA) and Publications.** The Student Association serves all undergraduate students enrolled at Andrews University for 5 or more credits. It coordinates activities that include the publishing of the *Cast* (pictorial student directory), the *Cardinal* (university yearbook), and the *Student Movement* (university paper). The editors and managers of these publications are approved by the Student Senate and elected by the members of AUSA. The Senate, composed of about 30 student leaders, exercises legislative and management powers given to it by the constitution of the association.

Student committees—BRANCH, Educational Standards, Student Services, Social Recreation, and Student Life—are additional activities of AUSA. Details about AUSA and its sub-organizations appear in the *Andrews University Student Association Constitution and Bylaws*.

**Andrews University Graduate Student Association.** All graduate students enrolled with regular or provisional status in a degree program in all schools and colleges at the Berrien Springs campus of Andrews University are automatically members of the Andrews University Graduate Student Association (AUGSA). The AUGSA

assembly includes all AUGSA members and is governed by elected officers who meet regularly and report to the assembly.

The AUGSA sponsors social, spiritual, and scholarly activities during the school year. It may also be involved in university policy development that affects graduate students. Details about AUGSA are found in the *Constitution of the Andrews University Graduate Student Association*.

**Bringing Andrews to Christ (BRANCH).** BRANCH is the official youth organization of Andrews University Student Association and Pioneer Memorial Church. It sponsors religious programs for all students throughout the school year. BRANCH plans activities that involve Christian service and fellowship on Sabbath afternoon.

**Campus Clubs.** Numerous campus organizations serve the social, spiritual, and leisure interests of students. Kappa Phi Gamma and Sigma Phi Delta include all women and men, respectively, who reside in college residence halls. Clubs for international and cultural groups provide for diverse special interests of students.

**Daughters of the Lord.** The Daughters of the Lord (DOTL) is primarily an organization for the wives of seminary men. Its purpose is to enrich the lives of the women and help them prepare for ministry in partnership with their husbands according to their talents, gifts, and desires. Although the organization focuses on seminary wives, it also encourages participation by faculty women, faculty wives, and students.

#### OTHER CAMPUS SERVICES

Other campus services include a barber shop, a beauty shop, and the university-branch post office.

#### IMMIGRATION INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International students on F-1 or J-1 visas (including dependents) who come to study at Andrews University (AU) should be informed about the immigration laws and regulations in matters related to their visa status. It is the responsibility of the international student to maintain his/her student visa status at all times. Failure to follow immigration regulations, whether intentional or unintentional, is a violation of the student visa status. Consequently, the status of the international student would be terminated and he/she must apply to the USCIS to be reinstated back into the legal student visa status or be faced with possible deportation.

The personnel at International Student Services (ISS) consists of the director called the Principle Designated School Official (PDSO) and two other Designated School Officials (DSO). They are appointed by Andrews University and authorized by United States Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS) to issue and sign legal students' documents. They are also required to advise international students in areas related to student life on campus such as study, work and travel, etc.

The International Student Services Office communicates information to the international students in matters related to the government laws and immigration by several methods. First, the orientation for new international students is required upon arrival at Andrews University. Failure to attend the orientation program will result in a fine to the student of \$75. In addition, they will have to attend a rescheduled orientation program in order to register for the semester. Other means of communication include the AU Bulletin, the international student services website, the Andrews Agenda, ISS newsletter, and email. All international students are required to immediately update the International Student Services

Office of any changes in their student visa status, address, change of major, or change of academic level.

#### General requirements for maintaining status as international students:

1. Have at all times a valid passport (except Canadians who travel by land).
2. Come directly to Andrews University and attend the school that issued the I-20 for at least one complete semester.
3. Continue to carry a full course of study.
4. Leave the United States once the courses for the academic program are completed.
5. Apply through the International Student Services office for a new I-20 if it is desired to change programs or to continue for another academic level within the same school.
6. Keep the I-20 (F-1) or DS2019 (J-1) updated at all times.
7. Maintain a legal work permit (on or off campus according to INS regulations).

**Tuberculosis Testing:** All international students must submit a negative (clear) TB test prior to admission.

#### ATTENDANCE AT ANOTHER SCHOOL

International students that come to study with an Andrews University I-20 or the General Conference DS2019 should always maintain a full course of study at Andrews University. With an AU I-20, international students may take additional classes from other schools if approved by the academic advisor.

#### TRANSFER TO ANOTHER SCHOOL IN THE U.S.

J-1 students who want to change schools or their academic program must first check with their sponsoring organizations. F-1 students who used an I-20 from Andrews University upon initial entrance to the U.S. as a student are required to attend Andrews full-time for a semester before being eligible to transfer to another school. If a student intends to change schools for any reason during the program, or after receiving a degree, he/she must initiate a transfer and obtain a new I-20 from the new school. The transfer instructions that need to be followed are normally given by the new school. Once the receiving school is ready to make the new I-20, the student should inform the ISS office so that the student's current I-20 can be transferred electronically to the new school.

#### FULL COURSE OF STUDY

INS requires every student on an F-1 or DS2019 student visa to enroll full-time every semester at the school they are authorized to attend beginning immediately after the report date on the I-20 or IAP-66. Full-time class enrollment is as follows:

Undergraduate	12 credits (minimum)
Graduate	8 credits (minimum)
MDiv	9 credits (minimum)
English Language Institute (ELI) Academy	12 clock hours (minimum)
Fall Qtr	2.0 units (minimum)
Winter/Spring Qtr	1.5 units (minimum)

Audited credits do not count.

Summer semester is a vacation semester for those who start a normal school year. International students do not have to enroll for a lesser course load during summer except if the initial attendance reporting date on the I-20 or IAP-66 is dated for the summer semester. If so, the student must enroll for a full study load

during the summer. Additional information is available in the International Student Services office.

1. International students with medical problems must provide a statement from the health-care practitioner recommending an interruption or reduction in study load.
2. Graduate international students who have completed formal course work and are engaged in comprehensive exam preparation, project, thesis, or dissertation are required to register for such. Thereupon they are considered to be pursuing a full course of study.
3. An international student who registers in his/her last semester for less than the minimum credits required, must present a letter from his/her academic advisor verifying that these are the only credits that the student needs to fulfill all course requirements.
4. An F-1 student engaged in post-completion Optional Practical Training maintains his/her full visa status. A student in F-1 status doing full-time Curricular Practical Training is also considered to be pursuing a full course of study. But if an international student is engaged in part-time Curricular Practical Training or part-time Optional Practical Training, he/she is required to enroll in classes concurrently.

#### **STUDENTS ON EXCHANGE VISITOR VISAS AND THE TWO-YEAR HOME COUNTRY PHYSICAL PRESENCE REQUIREMENT**

The two-year home country physical presence requirement is one of the most important characteristics of the Exchange Visitor J status. If the international student is bound by this regulation, it will be stated on the J visa and on the bottom left corner of the DS2019. Exchange Visitors, including their dependents, can apply for a waiver of the requirement to return home for two years upon completion of their studies. Without the waiver, such students are not eligible to change their status in the U.S. to another category. Neither can such students become eligible for any change of status until they have been physically present in their country of nationality or the country of last legal permanent residence for a minimum of 2 years following departure from the USA.

#### **EMPLOYMENT FOR J-1 AND F-1 STUDENTS**

Immigration laws are very strict about employment. International students desiring to work must be sure to comply with these laws. **UNAUTHORIZED OFF-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT CAN LEAD TO DEPORTATION.**

J-1 students may engage in two kinds of employment: 1) academic training related to the course of study, or 2) work on-campus or off-campus for a maximum of twenty hours per week while school is in session and full-time during vacation. J-1 students must obtain a letter from the Treasurer's Office of the General Conference authorizing employment before beginning work.

**Academic Training.** Employment which is directly related to the course of study is permitted by the Department of States (DOS) while the J-1 student is enrolled in school, or approved for Academic Training no later than 30 days after completion of the program. The General Conference is the organization that authorizes the Academic Training once the student provides the required documents.

**Curricular Practical Training (CPT).** Employment authorization for Curricular Practical Training is given to students whose degree programs require off-campus work experience. International students may NOT begin working until the I-20 has been endorsed with employment authorization by the DSO. CPT is limited to

twenty hours per week if the student is required to take classes during the practicum. If the CPT work is full-time, then the I-20 must be stamped for full-time. For more information, contact the International Student Services office.

**Clinicals, Practicums, or Internships.** International students who have a required clinical, practicum or internship as part of a degree program MUST apply for Curricular Practical Training and receive the CPT stamp on the I-20. Failure to do so may cause problems at the internship site.

**Optional Practical Training (OPT).** Optional Practical Training is an optional work benefit for F-1 students intended for practical work experience in their major field of study. Upon USCIS approval, a student receives work authorization to do OPT anywhere in the United States for a total of 12 months. OPT can be done before and/or after completion of a degree. (More information will be provided by the International Student Services office).

#### **ACCEPTING PUBLIC BENEFITS IS ILLEGAL**

Often hospital or medical clinic personnel encourage international students to accept Medicaid, or other government benefits for prenatal care, birth of baby, WIC programs etc. **DO NOT ACCEPT PUBLIC BENEFITS.** Doing so is considered by USCIS to be a violation of your non-immigrant status. Such students will be required to pay back the money received and may risk deportation.

#### **TRACKING SYSTEM**

The USCIS created a new system called SEVIS which monitors international students. The government requires all universities and colleges to supply them with information concerning their international students through electronic submission to SEVIS. Information such as the date of commencement of studies, failure to enroll or attend classes, or any disciplinary action taken against the student due to criminal conviction, or otherwise failing to maintain student status must be reported to the government through SEVIS.