Policy: F-1 student eligibility for annual vacation,1 off-campus employment,2 and practical training3 is dependent upon the student having completed at least one academic year enrolled in an SEVP-certified school. SEVP defines an academic year4 as follows:

- An F-1 program of study must include a minimum duration of:
  - Thirty weeks of instructional time for a program offered in credit hours
  - Twenty-six weeks of instructional time for a program offered in clock hours
  - Thirty weeks of instructional time for a program offered in a combination of credit and clock hours

- For an F-1 undergraduate educational program, an amount of instructional time whereby a full-time student is expected to complete at least:

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1 8 CFR 214.2(f)(3)(iii); for more information, see SEVP Policy Guidance 1306-02: F-1 Annual Vacation.
2 8 CFR 214.2(f)(9)(ii); for more information, see SEVP Policy Guidance 1307-02: F-1 Off-campus Employment.
3 8 CFR 214(f)(10) and (11)(i)(B)(1); for more information, see SEVP Policy Guidance 1307-05: F-1 Optional Practical Training and 1310-04: F-1 Curricular Practical Training.
4 SEVP’s definition is consistent with the Department of Education definition found in 34 CFR 668.3(a).
Twenty-four semester or trimester credit hours or 36 quarter credit hours for a program measured in credit hours; or

Nine hundred clock hours for a program measured in clock hours.

The chart below indicates the time generally required to meet the academic year requirement as it corresponds to academic sessions of differing length:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required time</th>
<th>Semester 5</th>
<th>Trimester 6</th>
<th>Quarter 7</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Two semesters</td>
<td>Two trimesters</td>
<td>Three quarters</td>
<td>As defined above</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Adjudicator responsibilities:** An SEVP adjudicator must use this guidance in all pertinent adjudications.

**References:**

8 CFR 214.2(f)(5)(iii)

8 CFR 214.2(f)(9)(ii)

8 CFR 214(f)(10)

8 CFR 214(f)(11)(i)(B)(1)

34 CFR 668.3(a)

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Signed by Rachel Canty on October 10, 2014
Deputy Director, External Operations
Student and Exchange Visitor Program
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

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5 About 15 weeks of instruction per the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) definition.

6 About 15 weeks of instruction per the NCES IPEDS definition.

7 About 12 weeks of instruction per the NCES IPEDS definition.