To maintain F-1 status, a student must:
1. Be enrolled in full time study (minimum 12 credits per semester).
2. Attend the school you are authorized to attend.
3. Pursue a full course of study and make normal progress towards the completion of your course of study.
4. Follow INS procedures for extension of your status before the expiration date on your current I-20.
5. Limit on-campus employment to 20 hours a week while school is in session.
6. Re-attain off-campus employment without authorization.
7. Report a change of address to INS within 10 days of the change on Form AR-11.

A full course of study is defined as follows:
- Undergraduate programs: 12 credit hours per semester for the fall and winter semester.
- Graduate programs: 9 credit hours per semester for the fall and winter semester.
- Only 3 credits of on-line courses can be counted toward a full course of study.
- Final single course in the final semester cannot be done as distance education.

**Announcements**

- Class registration is available in the Registrar's office from December 15th, 2009 until January 13th, 2010.
- Web registration for Spring/Summer semester classes is available beginning Monday, February 23rd.
- Spring Break begins March 2nd and classes resume March 8th. If you are planning to leave the country during the break, please remember to bring your travel documents to Ms. Grace Phister for signature before departure.
- If you are interested in writing articles, wish to interview, or have an idea for the International Student Office, please contact Grace Phister or Joy Cho in the International Student Office (internationalstudent@madonna.edu).

**American Holidays**
The United States has different sorts of holidays. There are national holidays, state holidays, religious holidays, and customary holidays. Here is information about two national holidays and one customary holiday.

**National Holidays**
On national holidays, all Federal government offices and post offices are closed. In the state of Ohio, other offices and businesses may choose to be open or closed. Often, banks are closed as well.

- **Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday**
  - Monday, January 19th
  - This day celebrates the birth of civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr., a leader of the 1960s Civil Rights Movement in the United States. In 1968, the United States Congress declared the third Monday in January a national holiday to honor his contributions. Martin Luther King Jr.'s actual birthday was January 15th.

- **Presidents' Day**
  - Monday, February 16th
  - Presidents' Day is observed on the third Monday in February. For many, many years, there were no national holidays in February. February 12th (the day Abraham Lincoln was born) was observed as Lincoln's Birthday. February 22nd (what day John Adams is said to have been born) was observed as Washington's Birthday. These two were the most revered American Presidents back in the 19th century. To make one day, President's Day, instead of these two days. Perhaps they did not know Congress trade off government offices and pay employees for two days off in February.

**Customary Holiday**
On customary holidays, nobody closes for business, but people usually like to observe these days, even if only with greeting cards.

- **Valentine's Day**
  - Saturday, February 14th
  - Traditionally, the history of Valentine's Day is also known as St. Valentine's Day. Currently it is observed as a day to cultivate the love between friends, significant others, and married couples. This is usually displayed by giving greeting cards, candy, flowers, and other romantic gifts. The persons giving and receiving these gifts call each other "my valentine." The greeting cards are also called "valentines." A heart is usually the symbol associated with this holiday.