Understanding F-1 Regulations

(Please check the box that indicates you have read and understood each statement)

I UNDERSTAND THE FOLLOWING ABOUT MAINTAINING MY F-1 STATUS

☐ My passport must always be valid six months into the future.

☐ I must pursue a “full course of study” during every academic session or semester except during official school breaks or unless approved for a reduced course load (RCL) **IN ADVANCE** by the International Services Office (IS).

☐ The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) require students to make normal progress toward completion of degree. This means:
  1) I must complete a minimum of 12 credits each semester, 6 credits as graduate student and 12 credits as ELC students, unless authorized for an RCL **IN ADVANCE**.
  2) I must make normal progress towards completing my course of study.

☐ I must report to the IS for initial registration in SEVIS upon arriving at the school. (SEVIS – student exchange visitor information system)

☐ I must go to the Registrar’s office (114 Somsen Hall) and fill out a Declaration/Change of Major form immediately, whenever I decide to change my major.

☐ I must inform the IS if I change my educational level by moving from a bachelor’s degree to a higher degree.

☐ I may not withdraw from the University or stop taking classes unless I consult with the IS **IN ADVANCE**. Failure to be enrolled full time while in the U.S. constitutes being “out of status”.

☐ If I stop taking classes during the academic year, I must leave the U.S. within 15 days of authorized early withdrawal (date noted by SEVIS), ‘0’ days if no prior authorization was obtained.

☐ I must apply **IN ADVANCE** for a Program Extension if I do not complete my degree by the date specified on #5 of I-20.
If I change my address, I must notify the IS WITHIN 10 days of the Change of Address (Forms are available in the International Services Office.) This is a USCIS Regulation.

I UNDERSTAND THE FOLLOWING ABOUT LEAVING THE UNITED STATES.

- If I leave the U.S. and plan to re-enter, I will need a signature on my I-20 from the IS prior to my departure.

I UNDERSTAND THE FOLLOWING ABOUT TRANSFER.

- If I am a transfer student from within the U.S., I need to submit a copy of my passport, I-94 and all I-20s to the IS. This must be done BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF CLASSES.

I UNDERSTAND THE FOLLOWING ABOUT ON CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT

- I am allowed by USCIS to work 20 hours per week while school is in session
  I am able to work full time during official school breaks.

- If I am enrolled at both RCTC (or another institution) & Winona State, I may
  work only on the premises of the institution that has issued my I-20.

- If I am an initial entry new student, I cannot begin work sooner than 30 days
  prior to beginning of classes.

I UNDERSTAND THE FOLLOWING FOUR OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE TO ME AFTER GRADUATION.

- Depart U.S. within 60 days of competing course of study.
- Continue further studies.
- Apply for Optional Practical Training after graduation – before competing course study.
- Apply for change of status to another non-immigrant classification.

Note: “Graduation” is defined by USCIS terminology as the date you complete your studies and it is officially posted on your transcript. It is NOT the date you “walkthrough” graduation.

I UNDERSTAND THAT USCIS REQUIRES THAT THE SCHOOL MAINTAIN & REPORT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS:

1) Name [as per passport]
2) Date & Country of Birth
3) Country of Citizenship
4) Current Address where you physically reside. [no P.O. Box]
5) Foreign Address [Address outside of the U.S.]
6) Current Academic Status
7) Date of commencement of studies
8) Degree program & field of study
9) Practical Training Certifications – begin and end dates
10) Termination Date
11) Documents relating to the Student Admission (transcripts, application, financial support.)
12) Number of credits completed each semester.
13) Photocopy of student I-20.

I UNDERSTAND THAT USCIS REQUIRES THE FOLLOWING PERIODIC REPORT ON ALL F-1 VISA HOLDERS.

Registration information that will be reported:

1) Whether I am enrolled [each semester]
2) Whether I dropped below a full course of study without prior authorization.
3) Change of address

I understand that the IS is the best place at the university to obtain assistance with my immigration concerns and questions. Appointments must be made in advance.

I have read and understand the terms and conditions of my F-1 status.

NAME: ______________________________ DATE: __________________

Note: the information above is available on our website;

http://www.winona.edu/internationalservices/F-1.asp