Immigration
Important things you need to know to maintain your status

Mr. Percy Amarteifio, Jr.
CELCIS Immigration Advisor
How to maintain your F-1 or J-1 status

✓ You must maintain a valid passport at all times (valid for 6 months into the future).
How to maintain your F-1 or J-1 status

• You must have a valid Arrival/Departure Record (I-94) at all times.

Students are advised to provide CELCIS with a copy of their electronic I-94. Students can print their electronic I-94 at this website: www.cbp.gov/I94
How to maintain your F-1 or J-1 status

- You must have a valid, unexpired I-20 or DS-2019 at all times.
- Keep your immigration documents in your possession at all times.
How to maintain your status

- You must register and attend classes full time. CELCIS is required to report problems with absences or lack of progress to SEVIS
How to maintain your status

• If you change your **address**, you must give your new address to CELCIS within 10 days of the change.

• If you change your **name**, you must give your new name to CELCIS within 10 days of the change.
How to maintain your status

- You must apply for an extension of your I-20 or DS-2019 before the expiration date.
- You must get a new I-20 or DS-2019 if your source of funding changes (e.g. from family funds to scholarship).

Always consult with the CELCIS Immigration Advisor before traveling outside the U.S.!
How to maintain your status

• F-1 and J-1 students may **not** work **off campus**.
• F-1 students may work **on campus** up to 20 hours per week when studying.
• J-1 students **must obtain** written authorization in advance to work **on campus**.
How to maintain your status

- To change program levels (e.g., ESL to academic objective), or to transfer to another school, see the CELCIS Immigration Advisor in advance.
How to maintain your status

• If you have an emergency and need to return home, see the CELCIS Immigration Advisor for options.

• *Authorized Early Withdrawal* – permits a 15 day grace period for departure.
How to maintain your status

- Grace Period following successful program completion:
  - 60 days for F-1 students
  - 30 days for J-1 students
- Grace Period is for travel/departure, not for work.
How to maintain your status

• Read your WMU email often. See the CELCIS Immigration Advisor if you have any questions about immigration.

• All email communication will be through your WMU email account.
CELCIS Attendance

- Advice for F-1 and J-1 students, for successful completion of your program:
  - Attend classes
  - Make normal progress in learning English
CELCIS Attendance Policy

If you reach 15 or more unexcused absences in a class, you will be considered in violation of the CELCIS attendance policy. This will result in SEVIS termination.

- U.S. Department of Homeland Security will be notified of failure to attend class.
- The CELCIS office will send the student an email message.
Assistance after SEVIS Termination

Meet with the CELCIS Immigration Advisor to review options, if eligible:

- Reinstatement
- Initial I-20, SEVIS fee, new visa
Assistance after SEVIS Termination

- Attend classes while reinstatement is pending.
- Reinstatement might be approved or might be denied.
- If Reinstatement is denied or the student fails to file for reinstatement, U.S. immigration may require the student’s immediate departure from the U.S.
Medical Reduced Course Load

If you have a temporary illness or medical condition and you are not able to attend classes, you may be eligible to apply for a medical RCL.

a) Fill out a medical RCL application.

b) Get a letter from a licensed medical doctor or clinical psychologist.

c) Contact the CELCIS Immigration Advisor for assistance.

*Please note that only the CELCIS Immigration Advisor may approve your request for medical RCL through SEVIS.*
Dependents

- F-2 dependents may study only part time in an educational program
- J-2 dependents may study full time in an educational program
- F-2/J-2 children may study full time (kindergarten through 12th grade)
Dependents

To bring your family to the U.S. on an F-2 or J-2 visa, please see the CELCIS Immigration Advisor.
QUESTIONS?

Walk-in hours:
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
1:15 – 4 p.m.

Call International Admissions and Services to make an appointment with Mr. Percy Amarteifio, Jr.
(269) 387-5865
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Please visit us in the office if you have any questions or concerns.

Enjoy your time in CELCIS!