



Medical Reduced Course Load (RCL) Form

Immigration law requires that international students admitted to the U.S. on a student visa pursue a full-time course of study during every academic session or semester except during official school breaks, or unless approved under a specific exception, in advance. Under some circumstances, medical conditions can qualify a student for a reduced course load.

Medical Conditions, as defined in *8 CFR 214.2 (f)(6)(iii) (B) and 22 C.F.R. § 62.23(e)(2)*. A Designated School Official (DSO) may authorize a reduced course load due to a student's temporary illness or medical condition for a period of time not to exceed an aggregate of 12 months while the student is pursuing a course of study. **The student will need to submit a written statement from a licensed medical doctor, a doctor of osteopathy, or a licensed clinical psychologist requiring the reduction in studies and recommending how many credits the student should be able to take.** A student may be authorized for a reduced course load for a reason of illness or medical condition on more than one occasion while pursuing a course of study at the same program level so long as the aggregate period does not exceed 12 months.

Students should not drop below full time before getting approval from a DSO in International Students & Scholar Services.

Sample wording to be placed on an official signed letter from doctor or clinical psychologist:

(*student name*) is undergoing treatment for an illness or medical condition.

Due to the condition for which I am treating (*student name*), it is my professional recommendation that (*student name*) take a reduced course load.

I understand that (*student name*) is in the U.S. on a student visa, and as such is required to be a full-time student. I understand that the normal full-time course load is 12 credits, but because of this medical condition, I recommend that (*student name*) take only _____ credits this semester.

Signed by a
Licensed medical doctor or
Doctor of osteopathy or
Licensed clinical psychologist