



Classification of Students # 1360.025

INITIAL EFFECTIVE DATE:	LAST REVISION DATE:	RESPONSIBLE UNIVERSITY DIVISION/DEPARTMENT
May 11, 1998	December 11, 2023	Office of the Registrar

POLICY STATEMENT

Students at Florida International University are classified as degree or non-degree seeking students.

Degree-Seeking Students: This classification applies to matriculated students. These students are classified by class level based on the number of credit hours earned:

- Freshmen
- Sophomores
- Juniors
- Seniors
- Beginning Graduate
- Advanced Graduate

Non-Degree-Seeking Students: This classification includes persons who are not, at the time of registration, working towards a degree at the University.

The following specifications apply to non-degree students:

(a) Non-degree students are not required to meet the general admission requirements and are not officially admitted as regular students. Enrollment as a non-degree seeking student does not imply a right to future admission as a regular, degree-seeking student. Credit earned will not be counted toward a degree at Florida International University unless the student subsequently applies for regular admission, is accepted as an undergraduate or graduate student, and credits are approved by the appropriate college/school.

(b) Registration is permitted on a space-available basis in select programs and is determined at the time of registration. Programs may designate courses for only degree-seeking majors. Non-degree seeking students may not register during the official registration period for degree-seeking students. Non-degree seeking students are allowed to register two business days prior to the beginning of the term.

(c) Undergraduate students are limited to 15 attempted credit hours. No more than 15 earned undergraduate credit hours can be counted toward an undergraduate degree in

terms of credits taken as a non-degree seeking student. Credits earned as part of HS dual enrollment are excluded from the 15 credit count.

(d) Graduate students are limited to 12 attempted credit hours. No more than 12 earned graduate credit hours may be counted toward a graduate degree, in terms of credits taken as a non-degree seeking student. Credits must be approved by the appropriate college/school in accordance with University Graduate School's Rules and Regulations as published in the University Graduate Catalog.

(e) Students may choose to take non-degree credits during one semester or over multiple semesters.

(f) International students are not permitted to enroll as non-degree seeking students unless one of the following conditions applies:

- i. The student seeks to participate in a non-degree seeking opportunity offered via an FIU academic international partnership agreement with an educational institution, other governmental entity, or receiving funding from an Exchange Visitor Program whereby, under these circumstances, the student would qualify for a J-1 visa.
- ii. The student is on a degree-seeking F-1 student visa at another U.S. institution and will attend FIU as a transient student.
- iii. The student is enrolled at FIU as part of the Global First Year (G1Y) program, a Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) approved non-degree pathway for students on F-1 visas.
- iv. The student is taking only online courses and is not requesting visa sponsorship.

(g) Affiliated students: This classification applies to non-degree seeking students approved by the appropriate college/school to take courses beyond the credit hours' rule as specified in (c) and (d) above. While additional attempted credits could be approved under the affiliated status, the credit limitations remain in place in terms of transfer to a degree.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all students at the University.

REASON FOR POLICY

To provide the University community with the method by which we classify students by degree and non-degree seeking status.



DEFINITIONS	
TERM	DEFINITIONS
Freshmen	A degree-seeking undergraduate student who has completed up to 29 credit hours.
Sophomore	A degree-seeking undergraduate student who has completed between 30 and 59 credit hours.
Junior	A degree-seeking undergraduate student who has completed between 60 and 89 credit hours.
Senior	A degree-seeking undergraduate student who has completed 90 or more credit hours.
Beginning Graduate	A graduate student who has been formally admitted to a graduate degree program, is enrolled in a Master’s program, and is not an advanced graduate student.
Advanced Graduate	A graduate student who has been formally admitted to a recognized doctoral or post-master’s degree program.
Transient Student	A student enrolled as a degree-seeking student at another U.S. institution of higher education while taking courses at FIU as a non-degree seeking student.
Affiliated Status	A designation for non-degree seeking students who have reached the credit limitations (15 undergraduate, 12 graduate). Affiliated status must be approved by the appropriate dean in accordance with criteria approved by that College or School’s Faculty Curriculum Committee. Application (undergraduate and graduate) can be found at onestop.fiu.edu/forms (Admissions).

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Office of the Registrar is responsible for maintaining accurate student classification levels.

RELATED RESOURCES

N/A

CONTACTS

Office of the Registrar
11200 SW 8th Street., PC 135
Miami, FL 33199



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HISTORY

Initial Effective Date: May 11, 1998

Review Dates (*review performed, no updates*): N/A

Revision Dates (*updates made to document*): November 13, 2020, January 5, 2022; December 11, 2023