(Additions to rules are bolded and underlined, deletions to rules are indicated by strikethrough)

EXISTING RULE:

Student Registration 1.7: A full-time undergraduate student is defined as one who is enrolled for at least 12 semester hours during a fall or spring semester or eight hours in a summer semester. Full-time enrollment for federal financial aid is always defined as 12 semester credit hours, including the summer term (all sessions combined). A Q grade or W grade does not count toward the certification of enrollment status. Only hours for which a student is currently enrolled at Texas A&M University can be used toward certification of enrollment. During his or her last semester prior to graduation, if an undergraduate student is enrolled at Texas A&M in all remaining hours needed to complete his or her degree and has applied for graduation, he or she may be certified as a full-time student for that final semester even though he or she may be enrolled in less than 12 semester hours during a fall or spring semester or eight hours in a summer semester. Students participating in student teaching, internships, and cooperative education programs who are enrolled in less than 12 hours during a fall or spring semester or eight hours in a summer semester may be eligible to be certified as a full-time student with the approval of the Dean of the College or his or her designee.

RULE WITH PROPOSED CHANGES:

Student Registration 1.7: A full-time undergraduate student is defined as one who is enrolled for at least 12 semester hours during a fall or spring semester or eight hours in a summer semester. Full-time enrollment for federal financial aid is always defined as 12 semester credit hours, including the summer term (all sessions combined). A Q grade or W grade does not count toward the certification of enrollment status. Only hours for which a student is currently enrolled at Texas A&M University can be used toward certification of enrollment.

During his or her last semester prior to graduation, if an undergraduate student is enrolled at Texas A&M in all remaining hours needed to complete his or her degree and has applied for graduation, he or she may be certified as a full-time student for that final semester even though he or she may be enrolled in less than 12 semester hours during a fall or spring semester or eight hours in a summer semester. Students participating in student teaching, internships, cooperative education programs, **and study abroad programs** who are enrolled in less than 12 hours during a fall or spring semester or eight hours in a summer semester may be eligible to be certified as a full-time student with the approval of the Dean of the College or his or her designee. **These certifications based on exceptions might not be used to qualify for Federal Financial Aid.**

JUSTIFICATION

With the change in the definition of full-time enrollment in the summer to 8 hours regardless of whether they are enrolled in a five week session only, students who are studying abroad are often not able to take enough hours to be full-time in the summer. However, part of the study abroad experience is the expectation that the student must interact with the community and culture abroad outside of the course work they are doing abroad. In some respects, it is similar to an internship in terms of the expected time commitment. Allowing the dean of a college to consider the student full-time will recognize the commitment required of students studying abroad. This change was recommended as part of a recent committee on how we code and charge students which consisted of representation from all colleges, Galveston and Qatar campuses, and the Registrar.

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COMMENTS:

Approved by the Student Rules and Regulation Committee on 11/18/11
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