EXTENSION OF F-1 PROGRAM OF STUDY

US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regulations place certain limitations upon the length of time you may be enrolled in a program of study and establish procedures to follow if you require additional time to complete program requirements. Consult ISSS if you believe the time limitations placed upon your study are insufficient to allow you to complete your current program.

Duration of Status (D/S)

You have been admitted to the US for “duration of status,” which is defined as:

1. The time during which you are pursuing a full course of study and making normal progress toward completing that course, plus;
2. The time you may be working in authorized optional practical training after you complete studies (if you qualify and are so authorized), plus;
3. 60 days to depart the US.

DHS grants duration of status to students by entering the notation “D/S” in the upper right corner of your Form I-20 and on your Form I-94 Arrival/Departure Record.

Limitations on Duration of Status

The “Program End Date” date on your most recent Form I-20 is the date by which DHS expects you to complete requirements for your current program. If you are unable to complete your program of study by that date, consult with ISSS at least 30 days before the listed Program End Date. If you are eligible for an extension, ISSS will assist you in complying with extension requirements.

Eligibility

You may apply for an extension of your program of study if:

1. You have not yet exceeded the time limitation placed upon your study by the Program End Date on your I-20, AND
2. You have continuously maintained lawful F-1 non-immigrant status, AND
3. The delay in completing program requirements has been caused by compelling academic reasons (such as a change of major field or research topics or unexpected research problems) or compelling and documented medical reasons. Delays in completing program requirements caused by academic probation or suspension are not acceptable reasons for extension of a program of study.

If your Program End Date has passed, or if you do not meet the eligibility requirements to apply for program extension, you may need to apply for reinstatement to lawful F-1 status. In this case, consult ISSS immediately.
**Application Deadline**

You must apply for an extension within the 30-day period before the Program End Date on your I-20. Contact ISSS at least 30 days before the Program End Date so you will have sufficient time to prepare your application. If your Program End Date has already passed, contact ISSS immediately.

**Application Procedures**

1. Your Academic Advisor must complete a Recommendation of Extension of Time for a Program of Study. ISSS requires this form. If a letter is substituted, it should normally a) certify that you have been continuously enrolled for a full course of study, b) recommend an extension of your study program, c) provide a new date when you are expected to complete your studies, and/or d) verify the reason(s) for the delay in your completion of program requirements.

2. If your financial support documents are more than 12 months old, you must provide updated financial support documents.

**Failure to Comply with Program Extension Regulations**

It is your responsibility to comply with all immigration regulations applicable to F-1 students, including the extension of study program regulations discussed in this handout. ISSS will assist you with this. If your I-20 Program End Date will soon pass or has passed, immediately contact ISSS. If you fail to comply with your responsibilities, you may not be eligible to continue (or to apply for) benefits provided to F-1 students. For example, you may not be eligible to continue any type of employment (including on-campus employment) or apply for school transfer, practical training, or other F-1 benefits.