

DHS Policy Update: End of Duration of Status (D/S) for F/J Students Webinar for UM Graduate Departments

International Student & Scholar Services
University of Miami
September 3, 2026



Webinar Overview

Understanding the Key Points of the Final Rule

- Effective Date: Sept 15, 2026
- What is a Fixed End Date?
- Extension of Stay
- On-campus employment
- Academic Mobility Restrictions

How to support students

CPT Guidance

Pre-submitted Q&As

Resources



Introduction to the Rule

DHS published the final rule, titled *Establishing a Fixed Time Period of Admission and an Extension of Stay Procedure for Nonimmigrant Academic Students, Exchange Visitors, and Representatives of Foreign Information Media*.

Rule Effective Date: Sept 15, 2026

Primary Impacts:

- Elimination of Duration of Status (D/S)
- Replaces D/S entry with fixed I-94 end date
- Requires formal extension applications (including for Practical Training) beyond the fixed end date
- Reduces F-1 grace period to 30 days
- Academic Restrictions: F-1 changes on majors, levels, and school transfer

What is changing?

Before September 15, 2026	On/After September 15, 2026
F-1s and J-1s generally admitted for duration of status (D/S)	F-1s and J-1s will be transitioned to or admitted with until a specific date based on I-20, DS-2019, EAD, or I-94.
I-20/DS-2019 program extensions approved by ISSS in SEVIS.	In addition to SEVIS updates, additional action in the form of an EOS filing with USCIS or travel may be required.
Maintenance of status tied to I-20 or DS-2019 dates.	Maintenance of status tracking now will also include I-94 expiration date, and passport expiration.
60-day grace period for F-1s and 30-day grace period for J-1s	30-day grace period for J-1s and F-1s (some F-1s covered by the transition will retain 60-day grace period)

Determining Authorized Period of Stay in the U.S.

September 15, 2026

Students in the U.S. on 9/15: Transition to a fixed authorized period of stay.

F-1 - whichever is soonest:

- The Form I-20 program end date + 60 days, *OR*
- November 14, 2030 (Rule effective date + 4 years + 60 days)

J-1 - whichever is soonest:

- The current Form DS-2019 program end date + 30 days, *OR*
- October 15, 2030 (Rule effective date + 4 years + 30 days)

Will be admitted to the U.S. until a specific date called Admit Until Date (AUD).

F-1 - whichever is soonest:

- Form I-20 program end date + 30 days, *OR*
- Up to 4 years + 30 days

J-1 - whichever is soonest:

- Form DS-2019 program end date + 30 days, *OR*
- Up to 4 years + 30 days

The AUD will be on the Form I-94 and at discretion of CBP.

Passport expiration date may also affect authorized period of stay.
For students on OPT/STEM OPT the EAD end date will determine AUD

Determining Authorized Period of Stay in the U.S.

The new rule does not limit duration of the program of study

Example: A student is admitted to a program for spring 2027 for a 5-year program. When they enter the U.S., they will receive an AUD 4 years into the future. That would be how long they can remain in the U.S.

There are two ways to extend time in the U.S. beyond the 4 years:

1. If the student exits the US and re-enters, the CBP official should admit them for 4 years as of that travel date or program end date on their I-20, whichever is sooner. *
2. For students who can't travel, they can file an Extension of Stay application with USCIS.

*Passport expiration date may also affect authorized period of stay.

Program Extensions

(I-20 or DS-2019 dates)

Program (I-20 or DS-2019) extension process before September 15, 2026:

Eligible students who need more time to complete their program can submit extension requests via e-form to ISSS.

How you can support students:

- Provide students with UM funding letters for all support given (i.e. Tuition waiver, health insurance, stipend, etc)
- Respond promptly to notifications to sign off on Program extension requests.
- Discuss with student and certify on Program Extension e-form:
 - Expected program completion date.
 - Eligible reason for extension from options on the form (not “needs more time”)

In addition to steps above, program extensions will require filing Extension of Stay with USCIS on or after September 15, 2026.

Extension of Stay in the U.S.

Students may need more time in the U.S. for a number of reasons:

- More time needed to complete degree
- School transfer
- Change of educational level
- Post-completion practical training/Academic Training

DHS has indicated there are two ways to extend beyond the authorized period of stay with updated I-20/DS-2019 from ISSS:

1. Timely file an **Extension of Stay (EOS)** application with USCIS, OR
2. Travel and reenter the U.S. to receive new AUD (More clarity from DHS is needed on this option.)

F-2 & J-2 dependents' authorized period of stay depends on primary's status holder's.

Details on how to apply for EOS coming soon. *Students do not need EOS before September 15, 2026. On-campus employment may continue for up to 240 days while EOS is pending with USCIS.*

Academic Mobility Restrictions for F-1 Students

New restrictions for F-1 students related to transfer and change of educational objectives.

What are “educational objectives”?

Majors, Programs, and/or Educational levels.

Undergraduate Level Restrictions:

No transfer or change of educational objectives during the first academic year of the academic program of the school that issued Form I-20.

Graduate Level Restrictions:

No transfer or change of educational objectives “at any point during the program of study.”

All F-1 students:

Students who complete a program at one educational level cannot change to the same or lower educational level.

Academic Mobility Restrictions for F-1 Students

What ISSS is doing ahead of September 15, 2026:

- We are updating majors/programs in SEVIS and issuing I-20s for eligible students have changed academic objective as coded in CaneLink.

On and after September 15, 2026:

- **Graduate students** may not change educational objectives. Including majors, programs, admission to dual or joint-degree programs, additional majors
- **Graduate students** may not transfer out to another school unless they have completed the current program and will start a new program at a higher level.
- **Undergraduate** students may not change educational objective during their first year at UM, including change of majors, adding additional major, transfer out, admission to dual-degree program.

ISSS will monitor academic objective updates and will reach out to students and departments about potential status issues.

F-1 Optional Practical Training (OPT)

Timeline for OPT

- Students may begin applying for post-completion OPT up to 90 days before their program completion date.
- Under the new fixed-period admission framework, some students may be required to file an Extension of Stay (Form I-539) with USCIS in addition to their OPT application, depending on their individual circumstances and whether they qualify for applicable transition provisions.

How you can support students:

- Respond promptly to notifications to sign off on students' OPT requests (e-form) confirming program completion term
- Confirm expected program completion dates accurately.
- Encourage students to plan ahead and submit requests early.
- Refer students with OPT questions to ISSS for advising and application guidance.

F-1 and J-1 Student Status Maintenance

What students need to do to maintain immigration status:

- Enroll and attend full time every semester (fall and spring) throughout the duration of their program
- Report Local (US) address in CaneLink within 10 days of changes
- Maintain valid and unexpired Form I-20 or DS-2019
- Refrain from unauthorized employment

On and after September 15, 2026

- Students must monitor their Form I-94 or otherwise determine their authorized period of stay.
- Take action early if Extension of Stay is needed.

ISSS is here to help!

Curricular Practical Training (CPT) Eligibility

SEVP Broadcast Messages to schools on 8/12 and 8/24 regarding CPT eligibility:

- Schools may “only authorize CPT if its absence would make the attainment of a degree an impossibility and if the work associated with CPT is required for *all* students pursuing that degree.”
- Warns of legal consequences to institutions up to withdrawal of SEVP certification, and DSO’s of personal liability.

ISSS will authorize CPT for paid/unpaid off-campus practical training only when the off-campus practical training is required for program completion as specified in the Academic Bulletin.

What does Required mean?

- All students in the program must complete off-campus experience to earn degree.
- The requirement must be explicitly stated in the UM Academic Bulletin.
- If alternatives to off-campus experience is available, students are not eligible for CPT.

Curricular Practical Training (CPT) Eligibility

What options are available for students to gain hands-on experience:

- On-campus employment, paid/unpaid internships, are permitted
- Students can complete internships abroad. This is not a status issue if they are not in the U.S.

What can UM departments do:

- Advise students on program requirements.
- Review and update information in Academic Bulletin as needed.

Resources

ISSS Page with DHS rule updates:

<https://issm.miami.edu/news-and-events/end-of-ds.html>

Department of Homeland Security: Published final rule

Study in the States

- [Elimination of Duration of Status Quick Facts](#)
- [Elimination of Duration of Status Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Only rely on official sources for your information!

ISSS page:





THANK YOU!

