

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

Friday, August 28, 2026
International Student & Scholar Services
University of Miami



Webinar Overview

Understanding the Key Points of the Final Rule

- Effective Date: Sept 15, 2026
- What is a Fixed End Date?
- Determining your Fixed End Date
- Extension of Stay
- Academic Mobility Restrictions
- Practical Training

What can you do now?

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 Duration of Status?



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Get I-94 Number | I-94 FAQ

Admission (I-94) Number Retrieval

Admission (I-94) Number: 42345978901

Admit Until Date (MM/DD/YYYY): D/S

Details provided on Admission(I-94) form:

Family Name:	IBIS
First (Given) Name:	Sebastian
Birth Date (MM/DD/YYYY):	01/01/1990
Passport Number:	P123123123
Passport Country of Issuance:	Mexico
Date of Entry (MM/DD/YYYY):	01/01/2016
Class of Admission:	F-1

Currently until September 14, 2026: *F/J's Admit Until Date (AUD)* is "Duration of Status" (D/S) on Form I-94

- Allows flexible time to complete degree/practical training
- ISSS can extend F/J status via SEVIS for degree completion for eligible students
- USCIS approved OPT/STEM OPT also extends F status

Grace Period:

- Current F-1: 60 days
- Current J-1: 30 days

What is fixed end date/Admit Until Date (AUD)?

Effective September 15, 2026: Students will have a fixed authorized period of stay in the U.S.

- “Fixed End Date” means that the time you may remain in the U.S. with your F or J status is finite.
- F/Js must take additional actions to extend their authorized stay in the U.S., if needed.

Examples:

- I-20s/DS-2019s expiring before degree requirements are met.
 - Students applying for Post-completion OPT/STEM OPT/Academic Training
 - Start another program at UM or at another school.
- F/J students will need to determine their authorized period of stay. It will be based on Form I-94, OR I-20, DS-2019, EAD end date, depending on individual circumstances.

Grace Period for F-1/F-2s will be reduced to 30 days



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Get I-94 Number I-94 FAQ

Admission (I-94) Number Retrieval

Admission (I-94) Record Number: 12345978901

Admit Until Date (MM/DD/YYYY): 06/09/2027

Details provided on Admission(I-94) form:

Family Name:	IBIS
First (Given) Name:	Sebastian
Birth Date (MM/DD/YYYY):	01/01/1990
Passport Number:	P123123123
Passport Country of Issuance:	Mexico
Date of Entry (MM/DD/YYYY):	01/01/2016
Class of Admission:	F-1

Determining your Authorized Period of Stay in the U.S.

F/J students will now have a finite authorized period of stay

Scenario 1: Students in the U.S. on September 15, 2026

will transition to an authorized period of stay ending on a specific date, whichever is sooner:

- The current Form I-20/DS-2019 program end date (+ 60 days for F status; + 30 days for J status), *OR*
- Up to 4 years from the final rule effective date (+ 60 days for F status; + 30 days for J status)

Example: An F-1 student with a May 15, 2028 program end date on their Form I-20 will have an authorized stay ending on July 14, 2028. (Program end date + 60 days)

These transition provisions end upon exit and reentry to the U.S.

The Form I-94 may still indicate D/S, but this is not the case.

Note: Passport expiration date may affect authorized period of stay.

Determining your Authorized Period of Stay in the U.S.

F/J students will now have a finite authorized period of stay

Scenario 2: Students who enter the U.S. on or after September 15, 2026:

Will be admitted to the U.S. until a specific date, whichever is sooner:

- The program end date listed on their current I-20/DS-2019 +30 days, OR
- Up to 4 years +30 days

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

Example: An F-1 student with a May 15, 2028 program end date on their Form I-20 travels to the U.S. on November 14, 2026 should receive an Admit Until Date (AUD) of June 14, 2028 (Program end date + 30 days) on their Form I-94.

Note: Passport expiration date may affect AUD.

Extension of Stay

DHS has indicated there are two ways to extend beyond the authorized period of stay:

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.)

Reasons for extension of stay:

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

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.*

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.

F-1 Optional Practical Training (OPT) and STEM OPT

OPT & STEM OPT Applicants: Applying for OPT/STEM OPT will require a simultaneous Extension Of Stay (EOS) procedure (either via application to USCIS or international travel and re-entry to the U.S.)

Transition Provision: Students who are in the U.S. on September 15, 2026 and file for OPT/STEM OPT on or before March 18, 2027, can apply for employment authorization without the additional EOS process (provided they do not depart and re-enter the U.S. before filing their OPT/STEM OPT employment authorization application with USCIS).

Here is what this means:

Scenario 1:

Students with Fall 2026, Spring 2027, and Summer A 2027 Program Completion & Students on OPT who will apply for STEM OPT

If you meet ALL of the following conditions, you will only need to file a Form I-765 with USCIS, not an EOS application:

- You are in the U.S. on September 15, 2026 in F-1 status.
- You file for OPT or STEM OPT with USCIS no later than March 18, 2027.
- You do not travel and re-enter the U.S. on or after September 15, 2026.

Scenario 2:

Students who meet the following conditions, must file an Extension of Stay application AND Form I-765 for OPT or STEM OPT:

- You have entered the U.S. on or after September 15, 2026 in F-1 status, and/or
- You apply for OPT or STEM OPT with USCIS after March 18, 2027.

Remember! In either scenario, you may only file for OPT/STEM OPT once eligible, and with a new Form I-20 with OPT/STEM OPT recommendation from ISSS. Instructions to apply are at www.miami.edu/optinstructions or www.miami.edu/stemoptinstructions.

What can you do before September 15, 2026?

- **F-1 and J-1 students:** Review your Form I-20 or DS-2019:
 - If your major/program has changed, contact ISSS to request an updated Form I-20 or DS-2019 by September 4, 2026.
 - If the current program end date listed on your Form I-20 or DS-2019 is prior to your expected program completion date, apply for a Program Extension with ISSS by September 4, 2026.
 - J-1 students whose program sponsor is not the University of Miami, contact your exchange visitor program sponsor for assistance.
- **F-1 students eligible for OPT or STEM OPT:** Apply for OPT/STEM OPT Extension as soon as you are eligible:
 - OPT: 90 days before your program end date.
 - STEM OPT: 90 days before OPT end date.
- **Stay informed!** ISSS will continue to send updates.



Resources

ISSS Page with DHS rule updates:

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

Answers to webinar questions will be posted after this session.

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:



ISSS IS HERE TO HELP!



WEBSITE

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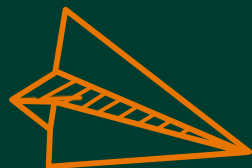
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MEET WITH AN ADVISOR

www.miami.edu/issmadvicing





THANK YOU!

