

Program Extension Instructions

“An F-1 student who is currently maintaining status and making normal progress toward completing his or her educational objective, but who is unable to complete his or her course of study by the program end date (item #5) on the Form I-20, must apply prior to the program end date or a program extension pursuant to paragraph (f) (7) (iii) of this section” [Federal Regulation 8 C.F.R. § 214.2 (f) (7) (i)]

Program Dates:

The program dates noted on the SEVIS I-20 are based on how long the average student completes a program study as a full-time student. The Bureau of Customs and Immigration Services (BCIS) no longer permits I-20s to be issued with an additional year built in just in case a student's program is taking longer than the average student.

Extension Qualifications:

Student is making normal progress towards completing a full course of study, but cannot finish course of study by the completion date indicated on his or her I-20 due to:

- Change of major
- Unexpected research problems
- Educational levels
- Transfer
- Compelling *documented* medical reason

****Extensions cannot be granted based on academic suspension and probation****

When to Apply:

Application for a program extension must be completed and entered into SEVIS **prior** to the end date (item #5) indicated on the Form I-20.

****Failure to apply for an I-20 extension prior to the expiration date on the Form I-20 will in being “out of status”****

How to Apply:

1. Have your academic advisor complete the Academic Advisor Program Extension Recommendation form.
2. Make an appointment with a Designated School Official (DSO) in the Office of International Education and Development to submit extension request in SEVIS **prior** to the expiration date on current I-20.