

International Student Services

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Extending your I-20 form

What does "D/S" mean?

An F-1 student is admitted to the United States for "duration of status" (D/S), which is the time necessary to complete an approved educational program, plus authorized Optional Practical Training, plus up to sixty days to depart the United States.

When does my F-1 student status end?

Your F-1 student status will end on the earlier of:

- (a) the date you complete your degree requirements (even if this is earlier than the completion date on your I-20 form), plus authorized practical training, plus up to sixty days or
- (b) your last registered semester, plus a 15 day grace period if you withdraw from SNHU, or
- (c) immediately upon violation of your student status.

When should I apply to extend my I-20 form?

If you will be remaining in your educational program beyond the originally estimated completion date (see item #5 on your I-20 form) you must request an extension of your I-20 **form before your I-20 form expires. An extension may be done at any time before the I-20 form expires- however, we recommend that you turn in your request to International Student Services at least one month before your I-20 form expires.**

Failure to extend your I-20 form before it expires is a violation of your F-1 student status and will require reinstatement to F-1 status.

Am I eligible to extend my I-20 form?

You are eligible to extend your I-20 form if you:

- 1) have continually maintained F-1 status and
- 2) are making normal progress toward degree completion and
- 3) the delay in completion is caused by either:
 - (a) compelling academic reasons or
 - (b) medical delays authorized by International Student Services

What is a "compelling academic reason"?

Examples of compelling academic reasons are: change in major or research topic, unexpected research problems, adding a graduate certificate or second degree, more time needed in ESL than expected, or authorized vacations. **Delays caused by academic probation, suspension, dismissal or unauthorized breaks in full time study are not acceptable reasons for program extension.**

What happens if I do not qualify to extend my I-20 form?

Students who cannot complete the program by the expiration of the I-20 and who do not meet the eligibility criteria for program extension are out of status and must apply for F-1 student reinstatement or lawfully re-enter the U.S. with a new I-20 form.

Procedure

Please bring the following to International Student Services in Belknap Hall:

- 1. A memo from your academic advisor giving recommendation for the program extension, and
- 2. Current financial support evidence (proof of scholarship, graduate assistantship, personal funds, family funds, etc. from within the last six months)

How much financial support do I need to show? Please meet with an International Student Advisor for help in determining your estimated remaining expenses.

Please answer:

Do you have family members in F-2 status? Yes No

If yes, please list: _____

My e-mail address: _____

My phone number: _____

My source of financial support is (specify type and amount, documentation is required):

My local address: _____
street number and street name city state zip code

My home country address: _____
street number and street name city

_____ province country postal code

Interoffice Memo

To: International Student Services

From: _____
Academic Advisor (Name and Signature)

Re: F-1 Program Extension

Date: _____

_____ is majoring in _____
(first name) (last name) (student ID) (major and certificate, if applicable)

and is expected to complete program/degree requirements in the _____
(program/degree level)

program/degree on _____.
(month/day/year)

By signing this form, I, the student's academic advisor, verify that the above-mentioned student has maintained normal progress towards degree completion. The delay of his/her degree completion is not caused by academic probation, suspension, dismissal or unauthorized breaks. The compelling academic reason* that caused a delay in expected graduation is:

I do or do not support the above named student's program extension request.

***Note to Advisors: According to U. S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) regulations academic probation, suspension, dismissal and unauthorized breaks do not constitute a legitimate, compelling academic reason for an extension of the I-20 form. In these cases, students in F-1 status must apply to USCIS for reinstatement or lawfully re-enter the U.S. If you have any questions, please contact Dawn Sedutto or Debbie Donnelly x9629 in International Student Services.**