

Regulations

Below are the two regulatory citations that govern student’s eligibility for a program extension.

When determining a student’s eligibility for program extension, two conditions must be met:

1. The student’s physical presence in the United States must be required. Work that may be completed remotely from outside the United States would not qualify for a program extension –

8 CFR 214.2(f)(6)(iii)(C)

If the student is not required to take any additional courses to satisfy the requirements for completion, but continues to be enrolled for administrative purposes, the student is considered to have completed the course of study and must take action to maintain status. Such action may include application for change of status or departure from the U.S.

2. The reason for the student’s extension is reasonable for someone making normal progress toward a particular degree and academic in nature –

8 CFR 214.2(f)(7)(iii)

An F-1 student who is unable to meet the program completion date on the Form I-20 may be granted an extension by the DSO if the DSO certifies that the student has continually maintained status and that the delays are caused by compelling academic or medical reasons, such as changes of major or research topics, unexpected research problems, or documented illnesses. Delays caused by academic probation or suspension are not acceptable reasons for program extensions. A DSO may not grant an extension if the student did not apply for an extension until after the program end date noted on the Form I-20. An F-1 student who is unable to complete the educational program within the time listed on Form I-20 and who is ineligible for program extension pursuant to this paragraph (f)(7) is considered out of status.

The Office of International Affairs lacks the expertise to determine the academic reasonableness of a particular student’s request and require assistance from the appropriate academic program staff in making this determination.

By signing this form, the appropriate Academic Advisor, Program Director, or Department Chair confirms that the student meets the conditions set by regulations regarding an extension.

We appreciate your assistance in this matter. Please contact the Office of International Affairs using the contact information on the front of this form if you have any questions.

Program Completion Date (Program End Date)

For immigration purposes, the program end date is the date that all degree requirements are completed. Program end dates may not extended to accommodate graduation ceremonies, degree conferral dates, and/or external examination dates.

| LEVEL | I-20 END DATE |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undergraduate students • Graduate and professional students without thesis/dissertations | <p>The last day of final exams week for the last term of enrollment, as listed in the published Academic Calendar.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduate and professional students in programs requiring a thesis or dissertation | <p>The submission date of the final version of the dissertation/thesis, with revisions, to the college.</p> |

Program completion is generally determined by completion of coursework (and successful defense of a thesis/dissertation if applicable). Unnecessary enrollment or on-campus employment for any additional semester(s) beyond completion of program requirements is not permitted and could result in a loss of post-completion visa benefits (such as OPT or Academic Training).

I-20 Program Extension Request Form

PROCESSING TIME: FIVE (5 - 10) BUSINESS DAYS

Document: I20EX / Revised: June 2023

Part I: To Be Completed by Student

An extension of a program end date on your I-20 will NOT extend the validity of your visa in your passport. If your visa has expired, you are allowed to remain in the United States. However, if you depart the United States, you will need to plan to apply for a new visa prior to reentering the U.S. in F-1 status. A visa cannot be renewed inside the United States.

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| First (Given) Name | Last (Family) Name |
| NSU N# | SEVIS ID |
| Email Address | Telephone |
| Have you already applied for OPT? | Current I-20 Program End Date |
| Have you already applied for graduation? | |

Part II: To Be Completed by Academic Advisor / Program Director / Department Chair

This form is designed to facilitate the communication of information required by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for students who will not complete their studies within the recommended time frame for their level of study. You can find the relevant regulatory citation on the back of this form. If you have any questions about the regulations or the completion of this form, please email intl@nova.edu.

| | |
|---|---|
| Student's Program of Study & Degree Level | Student's New Program Completion Date (see reverse) |
| <p>The student is making normal progress towards completion his/her educational objective. The student experienced a delay in his or her program due to the following reason(s) (check all that apply):</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> A change of major or field of study <input type="checkbox"/> A change in research topic/advisor <input type="checkbox"/> Unexpected research problems <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Condition <input type="checkbox"/> Original program end date is unreasonable for the average student in this program <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please explain): </p> | |
| <p>Provide an explanation of specific tasks requiring the student's physical presence in the US; describe why these tasks could not be completed remotely:</p> | |
| Advisor's Name | Email |
| Signature | Date |
| | Phone |

By signing this form, the appropriate Academic Advisor, Program Director, or Department Chair confirms that the student meets the conditions set by regulations regarding an extension, as outlined on the back of this document.