

End of Program For International Students

Per Immigration Regulations

1. Definition of End of Program

Students who complete all required course work for their program, excluding thesis/dissertation/comprehensive examination, in a particular semester including summer, are considered to have completed their program of study by the end of that semester, whether or not they will walk at graduation.

Course Work Excluding Thesis/Dissertation/ Comprehensive Examination

At the end of a semester when students are considered to have completed all required courses (whether or not they walk at graduation), their I-20 or DS-2019 form will be shortened to a specific date at the end of that semester. This date will become their final program end date. Generally this date is defined as the graduation day of that semester.

Course Work Including Thesis/Dissertation/ Comprehensive Examination

Students may define their program of study based on thesis/dissertation/ comprehensive examination, if they register for the appropriate thesis (or equivalent) credit hours **and** maintain a full course of study every semester (see regulations on full course of study). The end date will then be based on the date the thesis/dissertation/comps is submitted, and accepted.

In Between Coursework and Thesis/Dissertation/ Comprehensive Examination

Students who are enrolled in thesis/dissertation/ comprehensive examination and maintain a full course of study can decide to end their program in the middle of their thesis/dissertation/ comprehensive examination. The end date then is determined between the student and the Immigration Specialist in the office of International Student Affairs

2. Options after Completion of Required Courses

Students have a few options once they complete their program of study (based on one of the above definitions). These options are:

- **Return home:** F-1 students have 60 days after their program end date to complete all course requirements to stay in the United States for vacation purposes. J-1 students have 30 days. Students are not eligible to work (without Department of Homeland Security authorization), or go to school (without applying to a new academic program).

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- **Optional Practical Training (OPT):** F-1 students must apply for OPT and have their application mailed and accepted by Homeland Security by the 60th day after their program end date. For more information see the section on 'OPT'.
- **Academic Training:** J-1 students must be approved for Academic Training and have their DS-2019 document extended before the end of their program of study (as defined above). For more information see the section on 'Academic Training'.
- **Start a new degree program:** Students may start a new program at TTU. Students must complete all necessary admission requirements, and receive an updated I-20 before 60 days (for F-1 students) or 30 days (for J-1 students) after their program end date (as defined above). This process can take weeks, therefore students must plan accordingly.
- **Transfer:** Students may choose to start a new program of study at another institution. Students must transfer their legal document and receive a legal document from the new institution before the end of the 60 days (for F-1 students) or 30 days (for J-1 students) after their program end date (see above). Students are responsible to complete all steps in the transfer process. For more information, see the section on 'Transfer'.

*At all times, a student is responsible to maintain their own immigration status.

*The above information is susceptible to change.

*The above information is not an exhaustive list pertaining to end of program information.

*For additional information, students can visit: <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/index.htm>

*At all times students are responsible for properly informing the office of International Student Affairs of their immigration status and academic status (as pertaining to immigration matters).