

End of Program

1. Definition of End of Program

F-1 and J-1 international students must know when they have completed their program of study. When they complete their program of study, they must end their I-20 or DS-2019 legal document on that date. If the I-20 or DS-2019 ends on a different date, but the student will complete their program on a different date, the end date on the I-20 or DS-2019 must be changed to match the true program end date.

Bachelor students are considered finished when they have completed all their coursework necessary to graduate whether or not they walk at the graduation ceremony that semester.

Masters and Ph.D. students have three different options to define their program end date whether or not they walk at the graduation ceremony that semester.

1. When they have completed all coursework except thesis, dissertation, or comprehensive examination.
2. When they have completed all coursework and they have completed their thesis, dissertation, or comprehensive examination.
3. When they have completed all coursework and they are somewhere in the middle of completing their thesis, dissertation, or comprehensive examination. Because the end date of this definition is vague, the I-20 or DS-2019 end date must then be determined between the student and the immigration advisor in the office of International Education.

2. Options after Completion of Required Courses

Students must select one of the following 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 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) during this time.

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'. If a student files for OPT but they still have thesis, dissertation, or comprehensive examination remaining, they can continue to work on that while the OPT application is pending or approved.

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).

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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). The start date of the new degree program must be less than 5 months from the end date or the next available start date, whichever is sooner. The next available start date is defined as the next start date on the school's academic calendar (ex. If a student completes in the fall term the next available start date is the spring term). 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 I-20 or DS-2019 to the new school 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). The start date of the new degree program must be less than 5 months or the next available start date, whichever is sooner. The next available start date is defined as the next start date on the school's academic calendar (ex. If a student completes in the fall term the next available start date is the spring term). Students are responsible to complete all steps in the transfer process.

*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 Education of their immigration status and academic status (as pertaining to immigration matters).