



Duration of Status FAQ

What does Duration of Status (D/S) mean?

“As an international student in the United States, you have a certain amount of time to arrive in the country, complete your studies and return to your home country. Understanding the length of time you are permitted to be in the United States is a very important part of [maintaining your status](#). When you arrive at a U.S. [port of entry](#), a U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer will provide you with an admission stamp that will list the date in which you must depart the United States. As an F-1 student, you will most likely have duration of status (D/S) listed on your admission stamp. D/S means you may remain in the United States so long as you maintain your nonimmigrant student status.”ⁱ

What change is being proposed?

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is proposing to change the way that holders of certain nonimmigrant visa classifications—including F-1 students—extend their period of authorized stay in the United States. Specifically, the change would eliminate “duration of status” as an authorized period of stay, replacing it with a specific end date.

What impact might this rule have on me as a current student?

Under the current duration of status model, F-1 students must submit documentation to the ISSO, including proof of finances and support from their academic department, to extend the end dates on their I-20s. If the proposed rule change is implemented, F-1 students authorized period of stay could not be extended internally by the ISSO. Instead, F-1 students would be required to complete an additional step each year of applying to the U.S. government for an Extension of Stay.

What impact might this rule have on me as a student on either Post-Completion OPT or my STEM OPT Extension?

Just like F-1 students who are still studying at Clark and who need to extend their authorized period of time here in the U.S., you would need to submit an Extension of Stay application to USCIS. You would submit your Extension of Stay application when you submit your application for Post-Completion OPT or STEM OPT Extension to USCIS.

ⁱ <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/2015/03/what-my-duration-status>