Overview

U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requires that you finish your program of study by the completion date on your I-20. The end date on the I-20 is established by the admissions office to reflect the average length of time it should take a student to complete the degree requirements. If, during the course of your studies it becomes necessary to extend your I-20, our office can provide I-20 extensions to those who are eligible and apply in a timely fashion.

Eligibility

In order to obtain a program extension, you must show that you have continually maintained status and that the extension is needed for compelling academic or medical reasons, such as a change of major or research topic, unexpected research problems, or a documented illness. An I-20 which has already passed the program end date cannot be extended.

*If your program end date has expired or you do not meet the eligibility requirements to apply for a program extension, it will be necessary to file for reinstatement to F-1 status with USCIS, for which you will have to pay a substantial fee.*

Required Documentation

The following documents must be completed and submitted to the ISSS office:
- Academic Advisor’s Recommendation for Extension form (page 2)
- Graduate School Extension Recommendation form (page 3, graduate students only)
This form facilitates communication of information required by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regulations in order for an international student in F-1 status to have an extension of their academic program. Program extensions must be based on compelling academic reasons and unnecessary extensions could result in the student violating federal regulations and jeopardize our ability to host international students. Questions should be directed to an international student counselor at 742-3667.

Student Name: ___________________________
Student Number: ___________________________

I anticipate that this student will complete all requirements for the current academic program on or about (month/day/year):

____________________________________________________________________________________

This student has not yet completed the current program of study due to (check all that apply):

_____ Delays caused by a documented illness
_____ Delays caused by a change in major field of study
_____ Delays caused by a change in research topic
_____ Delays caused by unanticipated research problems
_____ Other: ________________________________

Please sign below to recommend that this student’s program be extended:

Academic Advisor’s Signature: ____________________________________________________________
Academic Advisor’s Name and Title: _______________________________________________________
Department: __________________________________________________________________________
Date: __________________________

This form should be filled out by student’s academic advisor.
This form should be filled out by a representative at the graduate dean’s office. Undergraduate students are not required to submit this form.

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Student Name

Student Number

I recommend that this student's program be extended.

Graduate School Signature: ______________________________________________________________

Name: ________________________________________________________________________________

Title: ________________________________________________________________________________

Date: _______________________

This form should be filled out by a representative at the graduate dean's office. Undergraduate students are not required to submit this form.