

# Extension of Stay

F-1 students who want to continue their F-1 status past their Admit Until Date (AUD) must apply to extend their stay with the U.S. government. An F-1 student must be in active F-1 status, in good academic standing, show academic progress, and have financial support for continued studies in the U.S. to be eligible to apply for an extension.

## Students may apply for an extension in one of two ways:

1. Submit an I-539 application to USCIS with required fees, documentation, and an updated I-20 with extended Program End Date
2. Reenter the United States with valid F-1 visa, required documentation, and an updated I-20 with extended Program End Date

AUD extensions are not guaranteed and subject to the discretion of USCIS or CBP. Applicants must demonstrate that they have a compelling academic, medical, or exceptional situation to be eligible for an extension of stay.

### Extending via Form I-539

1. Request an I-20 program extension from your International Advisor.
2. Gather all required documents below. All items below must be electronic files if applying online (recommended).
  - **\$420.00** in available funds, payable by credit card, debit card, or bank transfer (ACH).
  - Current and past **I-94s**
  - An updated, signed **I-20** (all pages) with extended Program End Date.
  - Copies of all **previous I-20s**, including any I-20s with a different SEVIS number.
  - Updated **Financial support** documents showing you can afford an extended stay.
  - Copies of **passport** photo/identity page and **visa**.
  - **Letter from student** (you) explaining why additional time is needed to complete your degree. Failing classes or retaking classes are not valid reasons for EOS.
  - All **transcripts** to verify continued full-time enrollment and academic progress.
  - **Additional supportive evidence**. These materials will vary but might include documentation from a medical doctor or clinical psychologist to confirm a medical RCL, an attestation letter from a financial sponsor and bank, etc.
3. Create an account at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov) and submit a Form I-539 Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status. Upload all required documents listed above before submitting the application.
4. Notify an International Advisor regarding any case updates, such as approval, denial, or RFE (Request for Evidence).

### How will I know if my EOS is granted?

USCIS will notify the applicant once a decision is reached. If USCIS approves your application, you will be granted a new Admit Until Date (AUD). If your EOS request is denied, you may remain in the U.S. until the end of the original AUD on your I-94. If that date has elapsed, you are expected to depart the United States immediately and may accrue unlawful presence if you do not depart.

If you have further questions about applying for an EOS, contact an immigration attorney.

### Guidelines for EOS Letter from Student

Use a business letter format or equivalent format for this letter. The tone of the letter should be formal, and the vocabulary should be clear and concise.

Include clear identification markers in the Subject or first paragraph of your letter: your full name (as shown on your passport), your current SEVIS number, your I-94 admission number, and your date of birth.

Your letter must demonstrate that your request is due to one or more of the following:

- A compelling academic reason, such as a change of major or RCL in your initial semester.
  - Delays including, but not limited to, those caused by academic probation or suspension or a repeated inability or unwillingness to complete your course of study are **not** acceptable reasons for an extension;
- A documented illness, injury, or other medical condition that is a compelling medical reason supported by medical documentation from a licensed medical doctor, a licensed doctor of osteopathy, a licensed psychologist, or a licensed clinical psychologist; or
- Circumstances beyond your control, including a natural disaster, national health crisis, or the closure of an institution.

You should be prepared to supply additional evidence to support your reason for needing additional time for your studies.

### Extending via U.S. Reentry

Like the I-539 application for extension via USCIS, extending your AUD via U.S. reentry is not guaranteed.

1. Request an I-20 program extension from your International Advisor. Gather all required documents below. Arrange travel to depart the U.S. Present the following at a Port of Entry upon return to the United States:
  - An updated, signed **I-20** (all pages) with your extended Program End Date and a recent travel endorsement.
  - Valid **passport** with an unexpired or revoked **F1 visa**.
  - Updated **Financial support** documents showing you can afford an extended stay.
  - All **transcripts** to verify continued full-time enrollment and academic progress.
  - **Additional supportive evidence**. These materials will vary but might include documentation from a medical doctor or clinical psychologist to confirm a medical RCL, an attestation letter from a financial sponsor and bank, etc.
2. Be prepared to **explain why additional time is needed** if questioned by CBP.
3. Upon successful reentry, retrieve an updated I-94 online at [i94.cbp.dhs.gov](https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov) to view your new AUD. Send a copy of your I-94 to an International Advisor.