



F-1 PROGRAM EXTENSION

Students in F-1 status are given the standard program length of full-time study on their form I-20 in order to complete their degree requirements. Students who will not complete their degree program by the program end date on their form I-20 may request an extension.

Under certain circumstances per F-1 immigration regulations, your ISO advisor is allowed to extend your I-20, but you must obtain the extension BEFORE your current form I-20 expires. **Failure to request an extension in a timely manner will have negative consequences for the student's immigration status.**

Eligibility:

You must meet the following criteria in order to be eligible for a program extension:

- You must be in **valid F-1 status**, having maintained a full course of study throughout every required semester.
- You must demonstrate that you have compelling academic or medical reasons that necessitate the extension of your form I-20.
- You must apply for a program extension 30 to 90 days prior to the expiration date of your form I-20. Failure to extend your I-20 by the expiration date will cause you to fall out of status and you will be ineligible for an extension.
- You must demonstrate that you have sufficient funds to cover the remaining time needed to complete your program.

You are **not eligible** for a program extension if any of the following applies:

- You were enrolled for less than a full course load without **prior** approval by an ISO advisor.
- You require additional time to complete incomplete grades, withdrawals, failed classes, or because you were placed on academic probation or were academically suspended.
- You have otherwise failed to maintain your F-1 status (unauthorized employment or any other violation).
- You fail to have your I-20 extending by the program end date listed on your form I-20.

How to apply:

Submit the following extension request documents to ISO **no later than 30 days prior to the expiration date of your form I-20**:

We strongly recommend scheduling an appointment to see an ISO advisor if you have any questions regarding your extension eligibility.

- Copy of most recent I-94
- F-1 visa copy
- Passport biographical page copy
- **Letter from your academic advisor** on GW letterhead detailing the following information”
 - Your name and GWid number
 - Indicating this letter is in support of your I-20 extension request
 - Your degree level and major
 - The number of credits you have completed thus far towards your degree
 - The program requirements you have left to complete, including the number of credit hours
 - If you are writing a thesis or dissertation, when the thesis or dissertation will be turned in and defended
 - **A detailed explanation of the compelling academic or medical reason(s) that necessitate the extension, i.e., why it is that you have not finished in the expected length of time**
 - Your anticipated date of program completion
- If you are extending because of medical reasons, a letter from your attending physician detailing the nature of your illness and how this affects or affected your ability to pursue full time study is also required.
- Proof of sufficient funding for the length of the extension.
 - Bank letter or statement no more than 6 months old, in English
 - GW award letter
 - **Consult your academic or admissions office for the cost of your remaining credit hours, cost of living, books and insurance. Your ISO advisor will review the amount and may require additional funding if they believe the amount to be inadequate.**
 - You must also show additional funding if you have dependents:
 - \$5,394/year per child
 - \$10,796/year for spouse

Once a complete request is received by an ISO advisor, they will review the request to determine the student's eligibility for an extension. If approved, a new form I-20 will be issued and an email will be sent to the student on when their new document is ready for pick up.