

Dear International Students,

We want to share an important update regarding upcoming changes to immigration regulations that may affect your status. On September 15, 2026, a new rule from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will take effect, which will change the traditional Duration of Status (D/S) framework for international students. We know navigating policy changes can feel overwhelming, but please rest assured that the LSU International Student Services (ISS) team is here to guide and support you every step of the way.

To help ease this shift, a transition window has been put in place to protect F-1 students currently in the United States who were admitted under Duration of Status. Under these transition rules, you can remain in the U.S. without needing to file a formal Extension of Stay (EOS), depending on your current situation:

- For currently enrolled students, you can stay until the Program End Date listed on your current Form I-20, up to a maximum date of November 14, 2030, which includes your four years of study plus a 60-day departure period.
- For OPT or STEM OPT applicants, if you are an F-1 student admitted for duration of status, are present in the U.S. for 60 days when the rule begins on September 15, 2026, and timely file your post-completion OPT or STEM OPT application by March 18, 2027, you will not need to file a separate application for an Extension of Stay.

Please be aware that if you leave the United States and re-enter in F-1 status after September 15, 2026, you will no longer be covered by this transition window. Instead, you will receive a specific end-date on your admission record and will have a 30-day grace period.

To ensure your transition goes smoothly, we highly recommend checking your Form I-20 Program End Date as soon as possible. Please connect with your academic department or advisor to confirm that you will complete your degree requirements by that date. If you find that you need more time to finish your program, you can submit a Program Extension Request (I-20) right away through the [iTiger Portal](#). It is very important to do this soon, because requesting a program extension after the September 15 rule takes effect will require a complex and expensive federal Extension of Stay application, rather than our usual routine administrative update.

If you have any questions about your extension eligibility, please reach out to us at iso@lsu.edu. Our team is actively analyzing this new policy to keep you fully informed, and we will share more detailed updates during the week of August 3, 2026. Thank you so much for your patience and partnership as we navigate these changes together to best support your journey at LSU. You can also visit our [website for further updates regarding the new Duration of Status Policy](#).

Warm regards,

The ISS Team