

Dear University Leadership,

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has officially published its final rule, effective today, that fundamentally alters how international students and exchange visitors are admitted to the United States. This regulatory shift formally eliminates the decades-old Duration of Status (D/S) policy.

The new framework replaces open-ended admissions with a fixed period of admission and rigid extension requirements. The rule is scheduled to officially go into effect on September 15, 2026.

Historically, F-1 students and J-1 exchange visitors were permitted to legally remain in the country for the entire duration of their academic programs or research without a specific expiration date stamped on their records. The newly finalized regulation completely dismantles this structure. The primary institutional and student impacts include the following:

- F-1 academic students and J-1 exchange visitors will now be admitted only until their program end date, heavily capped at a maximum of four years.
- Anyone needing time beyond their fixed Date of Admission – such as PhD candidates or those continuing onto OPT – must now file a formal Extension of Stay (EOS) application directly with USCIS rather than relying on standard university updates. The filing fee is almost \$500.
- The post-completion grace period for F-1 students to depart the country or transition to a new program is reduced from 60 days to 30 days.
- The rule introduces stringent limitations and heightened monitoring regarding changes in majors, institutional transfers, and shifting educational levels.
- For individuals currently inside the U.S. under D/S before September 15, transition provisions allow them to remain through their current program or up to four years, whichever is shorter, before being subject to the new EOS regulations.

The Office of Global Engagement has been tracking these regulatory trends closely and is fully prepared to navigate this transition. We understand that these new barriers will naturally induce anxiety across our international community and place operational burdens on academic units. Our team is equipped to provide continuous, high-level compliance guidance to protect our students, scholars, and campus stakeholders.

To ensure our campus is thoroughly informed, I will be presenting a deep-dive briefing on this policy shift at the upcoming Academic Affairs Summer Leadership Institute on August 11.

Following that briefing, our office will launch a comprehensive outreach campaign. We will host tailored department-level meetings and campus-wide town halls for our impacted international student and scholar communities. Our priority is to ensure every department head, advisor, and student understands their obligations well before the September 15 implementation deadline.

I look forward to discussing our institutional strategy further on August 11. Please reach out if you have urgent questions in the interim.

Sincerely,

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