

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR OPT, EXTENSIONS, AND TRANSFERS

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. WHAT ARE THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS WHEN THE DSO AUTHORIZES A STUDENT TO DROP BELOW A FULL COURSE OF STUDY?

A DSO must immediately update SEVIS when a student has been authorized to drop below a full course of study with the current date, start date of the next term or session, and the reason for the authorization. The DSO must also update SEVIS within 21 days of the student's return to full course of study.

2. HOW WILL F-1 STUDENT TRANSFERS BE HANDLED IN SEVIS?

The student must notify his/her current school of the intent to transfer and indicate the school to which he/she intends to transfer. The current DSO will indicate in SEVIS a release date, which will usually be the current semester completion date. Upon reaching the release date, the new school will be granted full access to the student's SEVIS record and may issue a new SEVIS I-20.

3. WHAT ARE THE RULES ON PRACTICAL TRAINING?

The application for optional practical training (OPT) must be completed within 60 days after studies have been completed. Students must be in legal F-1 status. The DSO will recommend the student for OPT in SEVIS and print the SEVIS form I-20 with the recommendation. The SEVIS form I-20 along with form I-765, passport size pictures and fee will be submitted to the USCIS District Office where the student will reside for adjudication. Students will have ONLY 60 days to depart the US after completion of studies.

4. HOW WILL EXTENSION OF STUDIES BE DONE?

The student must be in legal status to apply for an extension. There must be a reasonable excuse for the extension such as courses needed for completion of studies were not offered in sequence, research delays, etc. Failure to make progress due to bad grades is NOT a SEVIS approved reason for delays in program completion. If extension is granted, SEVIS will be notified and a new I-20 with the new date of completion will be issued.