



CAL STATE SAN BERNARDINO
International Student and Scholar Services



Hello [user:first_name],

International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) is continuing to provide updates regarding the final rule on Duration of Status for F-1 and J-1 visa holders.

As shared in our previous message, the final rule was published on **July 17, 2026** and is scheduled to take effect on **September 15, 2026**. Current rules remain in effect until the effective date. ISSS will continue posting updates on our Immigration Updates webpage:

[Duration of Status Final Rule Webpage](#)

This message focuses on **academic changes and transfer planning**.

Explanation: New Limitations on Academic Changes

The final rule includes new restrictions that may affect F-1 students who want to change their major, change their degree level, transfer to another school, or begin a new program after completing their current program. Because academic changes can have immigration consequences, students should contact ISSS before making changes to their academic plans.

This is especially important if you are considering:

- changing your major;
- changing your degree level;
- starting a new program after completing your current program;
- transferring to another school;
- withdrawing from CSUSB;

- taking a leave of absence;
- dropping below full-time enrollment;
- or making any other significant change to your academic plan.

Under the final rule, students below the graduate level may face restrictions on changing majors, changing educational levels, or transferring during the first year of study unless SEVP authorizes an exception for extenuating circumstances. Students at the graduate level or above may face additional restrictions on changing majors, changing educational levels, or transferring during their program of study.

What You Need to Know

Students should also be aware that, after completing a program of study, the final rule may restrict students from beginning another program at the same or a lower educational level. Students who plan to continue studying after completing their current program should contact ISSS early so we can help review the immigration considerations.

Please remember that academic approval and immigration eligibility are not always the same. A department, academic advisor, graduate program, or admissions office may approve an academic change, but that does not automatically mean the change is permitted for immigration purposes. Students should contact ISSS before finalizing academic changes so we can review whether there may be immigration impacts.

At this time, students should not panic or assume that immediate action is required solely because of the final rule. ISSS is continuing to review the rule, including transition provisions for current students, and will communicate with students individually if we identify a situation that may require immediate action.

Steps to Take

Please take the following steps:

1. Review your current Form I-20 or DS-2019 and know your program end date.
2. Contact ISSS before changing your major, degree level, school, or program plan.
3. Contact ISSS before withdrawing, taking a leave of absence, or dropping below full-time enrollment.

4. Continue monitoring your CSUSB email for ISSS updates.
5. Review the Immigration Updates webpage for previous and future updates.

ISSS will continue monitoring available SEVIS records, including program end dates and I-94 Admit Until Dates where available. However, students are also responsible for reviewing their own immigration documents and contacting ISSS before making changes to enrollment, employment, travel, program plans, or immigration status.

As we move through the next few months, ISSS will continue learning more about the full impact of the rule. We will continue sharing information with students, campus departments, and leadership so that students receive accurate and consistent guidance.

Future Updates

This is the final email in our initial current student update series. ISSS will continue sending additional updates as new guidance becomes available or as specific student groups require more detailed information.

For now, please continue to maintain your current immigration status, monitor your CSUSB email, review your immigration documents, and contact ISSS before making changes to your enrollment, employment, travel, program plans, or immigration status.

For immigration-related questions, contact ISSS at iss@csusb.edu.

Sincerely,



Isaac Morales

Associate Director of International Student and
Scholar Services

(909) 537-5193

iss@csusb.edu



WE DEFINE THE *Future*



International Student and Scholar Services

California State University, San Bernardino

5500 University Parkway, San Bernardino CA 92407

909.537.5193 | iss@csusb.edu

[Unsubscribe](#)