



Hello Student,

We are writing with an important update regarding the Department of Homeland Security final rule that was scheduled to end Duration of Status for F-1 students beginning September 15, 2026.

On September 14, a federal judge issued a **preliminary injunction blocking implementation of the final rule**. As a result, the rule will **not take effect on September 15 as originally scheduled**, and the existing Duration of Status framework remains in place for now.

What does this mean for students on OPT or STEM OPT?

At this time:

- Your current OPT or STEM OPT authorization is not affected by the blocked final rule.
- Students currently admitted for **D/S** do not receive a new immigration expiration date because of September 15.
- The new Extension of Stay requirements associated with the final rule are not taking effect at this time.
- Students applying for OPT or STEM OPT should continue following the existing application procedures unless ISSS or USCIS provides updated instructions.

Students on OPT and STEM OPT should continue meeting all existing reporting and employment requirements.

For students on post-completion OPT, this includes reporting required changes to your employment and personal information.

For students on STEM OPT, this includes applicable employment reporting, Form I-983 requirements, six-month validation reports, and required evaluations.

If you are applying for OPT or STEM OPT

Please continue following the application instructions provided by ISSS and USCIS.

If you choose to submit a **paper Form I-765** instead of filing through the USCIS online filing system, please make sure you are using the **most current edition of Form I-765 available directly from USCIS at the time you file**. Using an outdated version of a USCIS form may cause filing problems or rejection.

What happens next?

The court issued a **preliminary injunction**, which means the final rule has been blocked while the litigation continues. Additional court action could affect the rule in the future.

ISSS will continue monitoring the litigation, federal guidance, and any changes to OPT or STEM OPT filing procedures. If additional action becomes necessary, we will communicate directly with affected students.

Continue maintaining your OPT/STEM OPT Requirements

The final rule's status does not remove your existing reporting responsibilities.

Students on OPT should continue reporting required changes to their address and employment information.

Students on STEM OPT should continue complying with all STEM OPT requirements, including employer eligibility, Form I-983 requirements, required validation reports, and required evaluations.

For now, **students should continue following the existing OPT and STEM OPT requirements and do not need to file an Extension of Stay solely because of the previously scheduled September 15 implementation date.**

Please do not wait until an immigration or employment deadline is approaching to contact our office.

You can access the Immigration Updates Webpage for an overview of changes:

[**Duration of Status Final Rule Webpage**](#)

Please also access your Coyote International Portal as that will reflect your most up to date immigration status, and will allow you to submit requests to ISSS:

[**Coyote International Portal**](#)

In the link below, we have also attached a flyer from the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) that provides a general overview of the final rule, including the Extension

of Stay and OPT/STEM OPT provisions that had been scheduled to take effect. Please note that the flyer was last updated on August 12, 2026, before the September 14 preliminary injunction. It is being shared for informational purposes only and should not be read as current filing instructions.

AILA Flyer on DS Changes

Please continue monitoring your CSUSB email for updates from ISSS.

Sincerely,

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