



Office of International Programs
Montana State University-Bozeman
400 Culbertson Hall
P.O. Box 172260
Bozeman, MT USA 59717-2260
Email: international@montana.edu

Program Extension Guide

I. OVERVIEW

An F-1 student who is currently maintaining status and making normal progress toward completing his or her educational objective, but who is unable to complete his or her course of study by the program end date on the Form I-20, must apply prior to the program end date for a program extension. See 8 CFR § 214.2(f)(7).

II. ELIGIBILITY

A student is eligible for a program extension in the following instances:

1. **Change in Academic Plan**
 - a) You have changed your major, minor, or research topic and need more time to complete the academic requirements.
2. **Unexpected Research Problems**
 - a) Due to circumstances beyond your control, you need more time to conduct necessary research for your academic program. **Simply not completing your thesis or dissertation in a timely fashion is not an unexpected research problem.**
3. **Documented Illness**
 - a) You have obtained a Reduced Course Load in the past for documented medical or psychological reasons, which has delayed your academic progress.
4. **Other Compelling Academic Reasons**
 - a) Your academic progress has been delayed by some other circumstance beyond your control (e.g. advisor on sabbatical, course cancellation, limited required course offering, internship participation, etc.). Discuss this with your academic advisor. He or she will have to explain these circumstances when completing the second part of your request.

You must have continually maintained your F-1 student status to be eligible for a program extension.

Delays caused by academic probation, suspension, or poor academic performance are not grounds for a program extension.

III. APPLY

1. Meet with an advisor in International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) prior to the program end date listed on your I-20 to discuss your situation.
2. If the international student advisor feels that you qualify for a program extension, complete a Program Extension Request.
3. You will receive an e-mail once your advisor has approved or denied your request, as well as a new I-20 that reflects the new program end date.



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Program Extension Request

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ SEVIS ID: _____

Student ID: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Major: _____

What is the program end date on your current I-20/DS-2019? _____

What is the new program end date you are requesting? _____

Why do you require a program extension?

Note: You cannot receive a program extension due to failing or repeating classes.

Who is your academic advisor? First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

What is your academic advisor's e-mail address? _____

Please have your academic advisor approve this request prior to submitting it to your ISSS advisor.

Academic Advisor Signature

Date

I understand that my request is not approved until I receive a new I-20/DS-2019 from ISSS with a new program date.

Student Signature

Date

Note: You must have continually maintained your F-1 student status to be eligible for a program extension. Delays caused by academic probation, suspension, or poor academic performance are not grounds for a program extension.