

F-1 Program Extension Application

Program extension procedure for F-1 students

Extending Your F-1 Status

When you enter the United States (U.S.) to study full-time as an F-1 student, you receive a Form I-20 which specifies an expected date that you will complete your program of study. For academic programs, this date is 36 months (three years) from your program start date; for Intensive English Program study only, this date is 12 months (one year) from your program start date.

In some instances, you may not complete your program of study by the end date listed on your I-20. If your Form I-20 will expire before you complete your studies, you must request an extension of your F-1 visa status. Extensions are granted for one or two semesters, based on your anticipated graduation date. Extensions are granted for valid academic reasons only and are not granted to pursue a non-degree course of study.

It is essential that you submit your application for an extension at least 60 days prior to the expiration of your I-20. If you fail to apply in a timely manner, you may face various immigration-related problems, including being ineligible for on-campus employment and practical training. Remember, it is your responsibility to maintain your F-1 visa status. The Center for International Education and Programs is not responsible for your failure to request an extension in a timely manner.

Applying for an Extension

Please complete the following steps to apply for an extension. There is no fee to apply for an extension.

1. Complete Part 1 of the attached Application for F-1 Visa Extension.
2. Request an appointment with the International Academic Advisor by calling the Academic Advising Office at 847-214-7390. The International Academic Advisor needs to complete Part 2: Academic Certification.
3. Collect the following documents for your appointment with the Center for International Education and Programs:
 - Updated educational plan
 - Current Form I-20
 - Unofficial ECC transcript
 - Updated bank statement certifying availability of funds for a year of study at ECC. Check www.elgin.edu/international for current rates.
 - Completed and signed Affidavit of Sponsorship from your sponsor(s) – available at www.elgin.edu/international
4. Once you have collected all of the documents listed above, please contact the Center for International Education and Programs at 847-214-7809 to schedule an appointment.

F-1 Visa Extension Application

Federal regulations allow an F-1 student to apply for an extension of their F-1 visa status. Please complete the following information, collect all documents for your extension request and bring them with you to your appointment with the Center for International Education and Programs.

Part 1: Student Certification

To be completed by the student.

Name: _____ Student ID: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Email Address: _____

Phone: _____ Secondary Phone: _____

Program of Study: _____ End Date on I-20: _____

Please explain why you need an extension of your F-1 visa status:

- Change in major
- Pursuing a second degree
- Medical reasons
- Need more time in ESL
- Other (please specify):

Student Signature

Date

Part 2: Academic Certification

To be completed by the International Academic Advisor

The above student is eligible for an academic extension due to the following reason(s):

The student's anticipated graduation date is: _____

I certify I have met with the above named student and completed an updated educational plan. This information is true to the best of my knowledge.

Name of Counselor

Signature

Date