

Dear International Students,

Greetings! This is our third message to you regarding changes to F-1 and J-1 Student regulations set to take effect on **September 15, 2026**. Please see our previous messages [here](#) and [here](#).

We previously shared with you the Department of Homeland Security [Quick Facts webpage](#), which includes a link to an even more detailed [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) page](#). Make sure to check the FAQ page out, as you may find answers to your questions there.

Important: unless you apply to extend your stay in the U.S. and at Fresno State, effective **September 15, 2026** the Program End Date (see screenshot below) on your Form I-20 becomes the last date you can legally remain in the U.S., plus a grace period to prepare for your departure:

- 30-day grace period if you last entered the U.S. on or after September 15th
- 60-day grace period if you were granted “Duration of Status” (D/S) by last entering the U.S. before September 15th

PROGRAM OF STUDY

EDUCATION LEVEL BACHELOR'S	MAJOR 1 Computer Science 11.0701	MAJOR 2 None 00.0000
PROGRAM ENGLISH PROFICIENCY Required	ENGLISH PROFICIENCY NOTES Student is proficient	EARLIEST ADMISSION DATE 19 DECEMBER 2023
START OF CLASSES 18 JANUARY 2024	PROGRAM START/END DATE 18 JANUARY 2024 - 18 DECEMBER 2027	

Starting September 15, extending your stay **beyond** your Form I-20 Program End Date will require a new, multi-step process. Instead of simply submitting a Form I-20 extension request to the International Office as in previous semesters, you will also need to: **a)** file a formal extension of status application with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), using Form I-539, **b)** pay a \$420 filing fee, and **c)** wait for likely several months of processing time.

Note: Before September 15, 2026, you can still easily extend the Program End Date (due to program completion needs) on your Form I-20 by following [these instructions](#) and submitting your Form I-20 **Program Extension** by **September 1, 2026**.

As shared previously, we are preparing a Zoom webinar to address key aspects of these changes and what they mean for you. In the meantime, please continue to reach out to your [International Student Advisors, Jasmine Cao and Ashley Alba](#), with any related questions and concerns. While you can pre-schedule an appointment, Jasmine and Ashley also offer walk-in advising hours every Tuesday between 11:00 am and 4:00 pm (no appointment necessary).

Please also visit our [new dedicated webpage](#) regularly, which will be continually updated to cover and explain these new regulations.

We are here for you, so please do **not** hesitate to reach out to us. Go 'Dogs!

Warm regards,

Eddie West

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