WHAT IS AN F-1 PROGRAM EXTENSION?

According to 8 C.F.R. § 214.2(f)(7)(i) of the Code of Federal Regulations, “…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 pursuant to paragraph (f)(7)(iii) of this section.”

HOW DOES A STUDENT BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR A PROGRAM EXTENSION?

A. The delay in program completion must be caused by “compelling academic or medical reasons, such as changes of major or research topics, unexpected research problems, or documented illnesses” [8 CFR § 214.2(f)(7)(iii)] and must be approved by a Designated School Official in the ISSS office.
B. The delay in program completion cannot be caused by academic probation or suspension.
C. The student cannot under any circumstances, receive a program extension if s/he applies after his or her I-20 program end date. Therefore, if a student thinks s/he may not pass a class or have a high enough GPA to graduate, it is advisable to apply for a program extension just in case s/he cannot finish in time.

HOW DOES A STUDENT APPLY FOR A PROGRAM EXTENSION?

1) COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING FORMS AND GATHER DOCUMENTATION:

✓ Program Extension Request Form
  ▪ Filled out and signed by academic advisor

✓ I-20 Application Form

✓ Proof of Financial Support
  ▪ Proof of funds to cover one year (for a full extension) or one half year (for a single-semester extension) of study and living expenses. Please refer to the “Guidelines for Submitting Financial Documents” under “Rules and Responsibilities for Maintaining F-1 Status” here: http://www.stevens.edu/sit/isss/f1-students:
    • Graduate Students $53079 per year
    • Graduate Certificate Students $38279 per year
    • Undergraduate Students $64416 per year
    • Ph.D. Students in Dissertation Status $20879 per year (includes $930 for D-999 and $220 for health fees)
  ▪ If your funding is from a sponsor/sponsors, each of your sponsors should fill out the Financial Information and Affidavit of Support form.

✓ Copy of Passport ID page (with your picture)

2) SUBMIT THE FORMS AND DOCUMENTS IN #1 TO ISSS AT LEAST TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE PROGRAM END DATE ON YOUR CURRENT I-20.

3) YOU WILL RECEIVE A NEW EXTENDED I-20 FROM ISSS IN APPROXIMATELY 4-5 BUSINESS DAYS AFTER SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION.