



International Student & Scholar Center
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Program Extension Request and Recommendation Form for F-1 Degree Students

Each F-1 degree student receives a start date and an end date for the particular academic program listed on the I-20 form. These dates reflect the average amount of time considered necessary to complete the degree program. An approved program extension extends the date of completion of the academic program on a student's I-20. In order for an international student to receive a Program Extension the student by law must meet the following criteria:

- ✓ Maintain sufficient academic progress; delays in completion cannot be due to suspension or academic probation.
- ✓ Have a compelling academic reason for the extension such as change of major, change of research topics, or unexpected research problems.
- ✓ Be currently in F-1 status and have continually maintained valid immigration status.
- ✓ Have sufficient financial resources to cover the extension.
- ✓ Submit program extension request **and** obtain approval **prior** to the current date of completion on the I-20.

The following are reasons to *deny* a Program Extension recommendation:

- Taking additional courses beyond those necessary for completion of the academic program
- Insufficient academic progress
- Accommodating on- or off-campus employment opportunities (i.e., continuing assistantship/research projects, academic training, or adjusting pre- and post-completion OPT start and end dates)

The UMass Dartmouth International Student & Scholar Center requires the Department Chair or Graduate Program Director and the Academic Advisor to specify in writing on this form the reason for the extension and to sign below in order for the student to be considered for a Program Extension. In addition, *the student must submit recent, original, financial documentation to indicate that they have sufficient financial resources to cover the additional time in the academic program* accompanied by the ISSC's **Declaration and Certification of Finances Form** available at: http://www.umassd.edu/international_students/frequently-usedformsforstudentsandscholars/

The required time frame for submitting the request is a *minimum* of one month (30 days) prior to the current date of completion on the I-20. Earlier submission is even better.

Student Request for Program Extension

Name of student:	
UMass student ID:	SEVIS ID #:
Degree type:	Major:
Current date of completion on I-20:	
UMass email address:	Telephone number:

Academic Program Approval

We have reviewed the above named student's records and have determined that the student meets the required academic criteria to recommend a Program Extension. We recommend a program extension for the following reason(s):

MUST BE COMPLETED BY ADVISOR OR CANNOT BE PROCESSED

<u>Reason:</u>	
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<u>New End Date on Student's I-20:</u> / /

1. Academic Faculty Advisor

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: ____/____/____

2. Graduate Program Director or Department Chair

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: ____/____/____