



To Complete or Not Complete:

Graduation & End-of-Program
Reporting

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What does it mean to Complete a Program?

- The “Complete Program” option is used to indicate that a student has graduated or completed his/her course of study.
- The “Shorten Program” option is used when students are currently in Active status. The P/DSO can update a student’s program end date to reflect an earlier program end date.

- Borrowed from the User Manual for School Users of the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System Version 6.10: Volume II Form I-20

CFR 214.3(g)(2)

(2) Reporting changes in student and school information.

(i) Schools must update SEVIS with the current information within 21 days of a change in any of the information contained in paragraphs (f)(1) and (h)(3) of this section.

(ii) Schools are also required to report within 21 days any change of the information contained in paragraph (g)(1) or the occurrence of the following events:

(C) Any student who has graduated early or prior to the program end date listed on SEVIS Form I-20 [214.3(g)(2)(ii)(C)]



Testimonials...

“Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears”

- **Meghan Lane-University of South Florida, Florida**
 - Large Public Institution: 47,646 students/1,726 F-1 students
- **Miranda Moore Reiter-Hillsborough Community College, Florida**
 - Large Public Community College: 48,000 students/210 F-1 students
- **Gidget Pettibon-Midwestern State University, Texas**
 - Medium Public Institution: 6,400 students/500 F-1 students
- **Meghan Pace-Angelo State University, Texas**
 - Medium Public Institution: 7,000 students/200 F-1 students

Case Studies

- “Can one desire too much of a good thing?”
- “The wheel is come full circle”
- “What’s done is done”
- “Nothing will come of nothing”
- “We are such stuff as dreams are made on,
rounded with a little sleep”
- “O Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo?”
- “Delays are dangerous ends”
- “Expectation is the root of all heartache”
- “Better three hours too soon than a minute too
late”
- “This is the short and the long of it”



Resources

- **SEVIS User Manual**

User Manual for School Users of the Student & Exchange Visitor Information System Version 6.10: Volume II Form I-20

- **NAFSA Advisor Manual**

NAFSA Adviser's Manual 2.0

- **Code of Federal Regulations**

8 C.F.R. 214.3

User Manual for School Users of the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System Version 6.10: Volume II Form I-20

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**Homeland
Security**

Adviser's Manual Live

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 - 3C Acquiring F Status: Visas, Admission, Change of Status
 - 3D F-1 Status and Status Maintenance
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 - 3J Curricular Practical Training (CPT)
 - 3K Optional Practical Training (OPT)

3.14 Actions taken at the end of a course of study or OPT



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An F-1 student's program completion date or OPT completion date should always be taken into consideration.

- If a student will be graduating early, the program end date in SEVIS should be updated using the Shorten Program function.
- If a student will be applying for Optional Practical Training, the DSO must make the OPT recommendation in SEVIS and USCIS must receive a properly filed Form I-765 no later than 60 days following the program end date.
- An application for change of status to another nonimmigrant category must be received by USCIS no later than the end of the 60-day grace period following completion of studies or OPT.
- SEVIS updates to effectuate transfers to a different school and changes of academic level must be initiated in SEVIS no later than the end of the 60-day grace period following completion of studies or OPT.
- If the student does not plan to remain in the United States following completion of his or her course of study or OPT, he or she must depart the United States no later than 60 days following the completion of studies or OPT.

An F-1 student has four immigration options:

Options upon completion of studies or OPT

Option	Procedure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Depart the U.S. within 60 days of completing the course of study or OPT. 	Depart the U.S. no later than 60 days after completing the course of study or OPT. If a student does not apply for a transfer, extension, or OPT, SEVIS will automatically change the record of an "Active" student to "Completed" 60 days after the program end date in the student's Form I-20 record.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue in F-1 status by pursuing further F-1 studies either at the same institution or another school 	No later than 60 days after completing the course of study or of OPT, must initiate procedures for moving levels or transfer of school. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • see 3.26 Change in educational level at the same school, and • see 3.27 Transferring from one school to another
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Apply for standard post-completion optional practical training no later than 60 days after completing the course of study 	Must follow procedures for optional practical training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • see 3K Optional Practical Training (OPT)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Apply to change status to another nonimmigrant classification no later than 60 days after completing the course of study. 	Must qualify for change of status to a particular nonimmigrant category, and follow change of status procedures specific to that category. If the new category has a particular start date (e.g. H-1B status), the start date requested for the new category must be no later than the end of the student's 60-day F-1 grace period. <p>Note: In at least one decision, <i>Matter of Kalia</i>, 14 I. & N. Dec. 559, Interim Decision 2257 (1974), a student's application to change from J-1 OPT to J-1 Research Scholar status was denied based on the Service's finding that the purpose of the change was to enable the applicant to acquire additional practical training.</p>

If an F-1 student does not choose one of these options after completing a course of study, he or she will be considered to be "out of status." Options 2 through 4 are discussed in other parts of the Manual. Option 1, departing the United States, is discussed below.

3.14.1 Departure from the United States within 60 days



8 CFR § 214.3

214.3

§ 214.3 *Approval of schools for enrollment of F and M nonimmigrants* .

214.3(a)

(a) *Filing petition* --

214.3(a)(1)

(1) *General*. A school or school system seeking initial or continued authorization for attendance by nonimmigrant students under sections 101(a)(15)(F)(i) or 101(a)(15)(M)(i) of the Act, or both, must file a petition for certification or recertification with SEVP, using the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), in accordance with the procedures at paragraph (h) of this section. The petition must state whether the school or school system is seeking certification or recertification for attendance of nonimmigrant students under section 101(a)(15)(F)(i) or 101(a)(15)(M)(i) of the Act or both. The petition must identify by name and address each location of the school that is included in the petition for certification or recertification, specifically including any physical location in which a nonimmigrant can attend classes through the school (i.e., campus, extension campuses, satellite campuses, etc.).

214.3(a)(1)(i)

(i) *School systems*. A school system, as used in this section, means public school (grades 9-12) or private school (grades kindergarten-12). A petition by a school system must include a list of the names and addresses of those schools included in the petition with the supporting documents.

214.3(a)(1)(ii)

(ii) *Submission requirements*. Certification and recertification petitions require that a complete Form I-17, Petition for Approval of School for Attendance by Nonimmigrant Student, including supplements A and B and bearing original signatures, be included with the school's submission of supporting documentation. In submitting the Form I-17, a school certifies that the designated school officials (DSOs) signing the form have read and understand DHS regulations relating to: nonimmigrant students at 8 CFR 214.1, 214.2(f), and/or 214.2(m); change of nonimmigrant classification for students at 8 CFR 248; school certification and recertification under this section; withdrawal of school certification under this section and 8 CFR 214.4; that both the school and its DSOs intend to comply with these regulations at all times; and that, to the best of its knowledge, the school is eligible for SEVP certification. Willful misstatements may constitute perjury (18 U.S.C. 1621).

214.3(a)(2)

(2) *Approval for F-1 or M-1 classification, or both--*

214.3(a)(2)(i)

(i) *F-1 classification* . The following schools may be approved for attendance by nonimmigrant students under section 101(a)(15)(F)(i) of the Act:

214.3(a)(2)(i)(A)-(G)

(A) A college or university, i.e., an institution of higher learning which awards recognized bachelor's, master's doctor's or professional degrees.

(B) A community college or junior college which provides instruction in the liberal arts or in the professions and which awards recognized associate degrees.

(C) A seminary.

(D) A conservatory.

(E) An academic high school.

(F) A private elementary school.

(G) An institution which provides language training, instruction in the liberal arts or fine arts, instruction in the professions, or instruction or training in more than one of these disciplines.

214.3(a)(2)(ii)

(ii) *M-1 classification* . The following schools are considered to be vocational or nonacademic institutions and may be approved for attendance by nonimmigrant students under section 101(a)(15)(M)(i) of the Act:

214.3(a)(2)(ii)(A)-(C)

(A) A community college or junior college which provides vocational or technical training and which awards recognized associate degrees.

(B) A vocational high school



Question & Answer

Contact Us!

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Shakespeare

Thank you for your
participation!

