

F-1 & J-1 STUDENT VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSION

Fixed Period of Admission, Extensions, & CPT Updates

September 11, 2026

Presented by Rutgers Global – International Student and Scholar Services

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Elimination of Duration of Status (D/S): Potential Institutional Impact Across Key Areas

More Uncertainty. More Complexity. Bigger Impact.

1 ENROLLMENT



- Reduced international applications and yield
- Increased melt and transfer-out risk
- Greater competition from global destinations
- Impact on program pipelines, especially graduate programs



IMPACT: HIGH

2 FINANCE



- Potential decline in tuition revenue
- Lower housing, dining and auxiliary revenue
- Increased costs for advising, compliance and extensions
- Greater financial forecasting uncertainty



IMPACT: HIGH

3 ACADEMICS



- Pressure on time-to-degree and academic pathways
- Course availability and prerequisite bottlenecks may delay progress
- Major changes and experiential learning may extend timelines
- Need for proactive degree planning and advising



IMPACT: MEDIUM-HIGH

4 RESEARCH



- Graduate students may need extensions to complete dissertation/research
- Risk to continuity of research projects and lab staffing
- Potential delays in grant funding and deliverables
- May affect recruitment of top global research talent



IMPACT: HIGH

5 STUDENT SUCCESS



- Increased anxiety and stress related to immigration uncertainty
- Higher demand for advising, mental health and support services
- Financial burden of extensions and fees
- Risk of reduced engagement in high-impact experiences



IMPACT: HIGH

6 OPERATIONS



- More extensions and USCIS filings to manage
- Additional documentation and compliance tracking
- Increased workload for staff and advisors
- Greater risk of errors and compliance issues



IMPACT: HIGH

7 INSTITUTIONAL REPUTATION



- Perception of greater complexity for studying in the U.S.
- Could impact ranking, brand and global visibility
- Risk to competitiveness in attracting international talent



IMPACT: MEDIUM

8 COMMUNICATIONS



- Need for clear, consistent and timely messaging
- High volume of student and family inquiries
- Coordination required across multiple audiences (students, faculty, staff, families, partners, media)
- Risk of mixed messages



IMPACT: MEDIUM-HIGH

OUR GOALS



ANTICIPATE IMPACTS

Identify risks early and plan proactively.



ALIGN RESOURCES

Prioritize staffing, tools and processes to meet increasing demand.



STRENGTHEN SUPPORT

Enhance advising, well-being and wraparound services for students.



PRESERVE EXCELLENCE

Support academic pathways and research success without compromising quality.



SUSTAIN GLOBAL REPUTATION

Demonstrate our commitment to students and the world.

AGENDA

- Why This Matters - Scope and impact on Rutgers students and programs
- What Is Changing - From Duration of Status (D/S) to Admit Until Date (AUD)
- Major Impacts
 - Transition Rules
 - Extension of Stay (EOS)
 - Academic mobility changes
 - OPT, STEM OPT, and Cap-Gap
 - J-1 Student & Scholar Considerations
 - Travel and reentry
- What We Still Don't Know - Pending guidance and implementation questions
- Rutgers Response & Support Resources
- Key Takeaways & Questions

THE FINAL RULE & KEY CONCEPTS

The central change is the admission period—not the SEVIS system itself.

BEFORE: D/S

F-1 and J-1 were generally admitted for Duration of Status. Maintaining status + valid program documentation controlled the authorized stay.

D/S

AFTER: FIXED PERIOD

Beginning September 15, 2026, new admissions are date-specific. The I-94 will show an Admit Until Date (AUD).

4 years

I-94 &
AUD

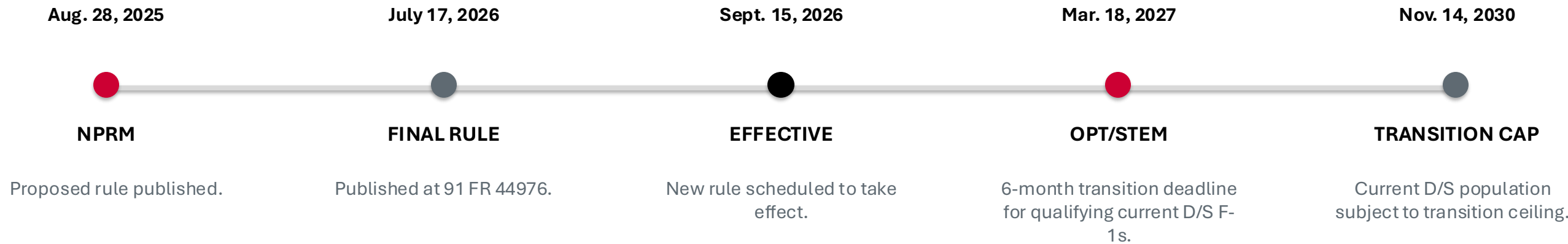
IF MORE TIME IS NEEDED

Beyond the authorized period, the individual generally needs an Extension of Stay (EOS) through USCIS or may depart and seek readmission at the port of entry.

USCIS &
EOS

9/15/2026

TIMELINES AND DEADLINES



Guidance is current as of Sept. 11, 2026, but remains subject to change due to ongoing agency guidance, officer training, litigation, and potential changes to rule effective dates and transition deadlines.

Rutgers Global will continue monitoring and sharing updates; international students and scholars should contact their campus international office with questions. The Sept. 15 effective date also remains subject to congressional review.

WHO IS IMPACTED?

Rutgers F-1 and J-1 students, scholars, and their dependents

F-1 / F-2

Academic students and dependents; includes students in study, OPT and STEM OPT contexts.

J-1 / J-2

Exchange visitors and dependents; admission period and EOS rules change.

CURRENT POPULATION

The rule includes transition provisions for those already in the U.S. in F/J/I status when the rule becomes effective.

NEW / RETURNING ADMISSIONS

A person admitted or readmitted on or after the effective date is generally subject to the new fixed-period framework.

Dependents cannot be admitted beyond the principal's authorized stay

What stays the same and what are the major changes?

What Stays the Same

- SEVIS remains the primary system for F-1 and J-1 records and reporting
- P/DSOs continue to issue and maintain Forms I-20; A/ROs continue to issue and maintain Forms I-20/DS-2019
- Students and exchange visitors must continue to maintain F-1 or J-1 status requirements
- Program dates and academic information remain essential for immigration planning
- Visa validity and authorized stay remain separate concepts

Major Changes

- CBP will issue a fixed-period I-94 with an Admit Until Date (AUD)
- Admission will generally be limited to a maximum period of four years at a time
- Program end dates on the I-20 or DS-2019 become critical in determining the period of admission
- Students may need to file an Extension of Stay (EOS) with USCIS to remain beyond their AUD
- Alternatively, students may obtain a new AUD through travel and reentry via CBP
- Biometrics may be required for EOS applications

TRANSITION RULES

Already in the U.S. in valid D/S on effective date

- May generally remain until the earlier of program/activity end plus grace period or four years after the effective date
- The rule identifies the maximum period:
 - November 14, 2030 for F nonimmigrants, reflecting September 15, 2030 plus the transitional 60-day departure period.
 - October 15, 2030 for J nonimmigrants, reflecting September 15, 2030 plus 30 days.
- Travel abroad during transition triggers the new AUD (Admit Until Date) limit

Outside the U.S. on effective date

- Transition protections generally do not apply
- Next admission is expected to be under the admit until system
- Those in violation of their status are not protected by transition rules

GRACE PERIOD CHANGE FOR F-1 STUDENTS

F-1 already in the U.S.
on effective date

60 Days

Outside the U.S. on
the effective date

30 days

THINK IN TERMS OF THE I-94: AUD BECOMES CRITICAL

I-20 / DS-2019

Academic or
exchange program
dates

I-94 / AUD

Actual period of
admission granted
by CBP

EAD

Employment
authorization is not
automatically the
same thing as the I-
94 admission period

**Students need to understand “What is my I-94 Admit Until Date,
and does it cover my planned activity?”**

EXTENSION OF STAY (EOS): THE NEW FEDERAL CHECKPOINT

OLD MODEL

P/DSO and A/RO program extension generally kept the student/exchange visitor in D/S.

NEW MODEL

- EOS may be required if authorized stay will expire before completing program.
- Students may apply for EOS up to 180 days before their AUD expires.
- USCIS adjudicates EOS requests and may require biometrics.
- Alternatively, students may travel and reenter to receive a new AUD.
- Both EOS and readmission decisions remain subject to USCIS and CBP discretion.

EOS WORKFLOW

- CBP issues fixed I-94
- Academic Program Appointment requires additional time
- ISSS recommends extension by updating I-20/DS-2019
- File with USCIS (filing fee, document and form, supporting evidence, biometrics when required)
- EOS decision (Approval/Denial/RFE)
- Travel/ Reentry interaction

**Operational shift: ISSS remains responsible for the SEVIS/program side;
USCIS becomes the adjudicator for the immigration extension.**

F-1 ACADEMIC MOBILITY

Generally Permitted

- Bachelor's → Master's → Doctorate progression
- Undergraduate transfers after the first academic year



Generally Restricted

- Graduate students changing educational objectives after program start
- Transfers during a graduate program (unless SEVP authorizes an exception)
- Progression to the same or lower educational level after completing a program

Academic changes that were previously routine may now require SEVP/USCIS authorization or may no longer be permitted.

OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING (OPT) & STEM OPT

- Some students may need both **I-765 and EOS** filings if their I-94 does not cover the requested employment period
- Post-completion OPT start date generally must be within **30 days** of program completion
- Existing 180-day STEM OPT automatic extension provisions remain in place for timely filed applications
- Cap-Gap protections remain, with EOS extended automatically for eligible F-1 students transitioning to H-1B status
- Transition exception - Current D/S students may qualify for a temporary EOS exception if they apply by **March 18, 2027**
- International travel may affect eligibility for transition provisions

CURRICULAR PRACTICAL TRAINING (CPT)

- CPT is authorized only when practical training is **required for degree completion**.
- Graduate thesis/dissertation students may qualify when:
 - Required research data is unavailable at Rutgers; or
 - Required technology/equipment is unavailable at Rutgers.
- The training opportunity must be necessary for successful completion of the thesis or dissertation.

CPT generally cannot be authorized when the degree can be completed without the internship or experiential learning activity.

CPT authorization is based on academic necessity and degree requirements.

Recent SEVP guidance has resulted in revised Rutgers CPT eligibility and documentation requirements. Review current ISSS guidance before advising students.



Rutgers Global Alerts



Other Notable Changes & Information

LANGUAGE TRAINING

English-language training students are limited to an aggregate 24-month period of stay, including breaks and annual vacation.

ACADEMIC DELAY

Academic probation/suspension or repeated inability/unwillingness to complete a program is generally not an acceptable basis for an F-1 program extension.

UNLAWFUL PRESENCE

- Remaining beyond the admit until date specified on I-94 date without timely filing or another lawful basis may lead to unlawful-presence accrual.
- USCIS denial of EOS generally ends the requested extension.
- Employment or activity dependent on the pending EOS must stop after denial.
- There is generally no additional grace period if EOS is denied.

J-1 EXCHANGE VISITORS

- J-1 students move from D/S admission to a date-specific period of admission (limited to DS-2019 end date or 4 years, plus 30-day grace period)
- Future entries to the U.S. will generally result in an I-94 with a specific "Admit Until Date" (AUD)
- Additional time beyond the authorized admission period generally requires an **Extension of Stay (EOS)** filing or readmission (e.g., Academic Training or additional time required to complete degree)
- After the transition period, timely EOS filings may provide up to **240 days of continued program authorization** while pending, subject to eligibility requirements
- J-1 transfer processes remain available under existing program rules

Monitor DS-2019 end dates, I-94 validity, and extension timelines carefully.

J-1 STUDENTS: Reporting, Travel, & Extensions

- Address and legal name changes must continue to be reported promptly
- Travel during a pending EOS may affect the extension request and should be reviewed with ISSS before departure
- Travelers should carry a valid DS-2019, visa (if required), and EOS receipt notice, if applicable
- Students must maintain passport valid for duration of program (expiring passport will result in shorter admission period)
- J-1/J-2 participants continue to receive a 30-day departure period following program completion
- Contact ISSS early for transfers and extension requests to avoid interruptions in program activity

TRAVEL CONSIDERATIONS UNDER THE NEW RULE

- Before the effective date, current D/S practices
- After the effective date, readmission should result in a fixed I-94 date, known as the Admit Until Date (AUD)
- Travel during a pending EOS may cause USCIS to treat the EOS as unnecessary or abandoned in some scenarios
- Travelers should carry the latest I-20/DS-2019, valid visa where required, and EOS receipt if applicable

Before International Travel, Consult with ISSS

WHAT WE DON'T FULLY KNOW YET

SEVIS / Systems

How SEVP will implement transition calculations, AUD information, alerts, and related SEVIS functionality.

I-94 / CBP

How CBP will operationalize AUD determinations and resolve discrepancies between admission and program documentation (and passports?)

EOS / USCIS

Detailed filing procedures, documentation expectations, processing, and interaction with SEVIS program extensions

ACADEMIC MOBILITY

How the hierarchy between certificates, degree level will be interpreted. How dual degrees, and “mastering out” will be handled.

The final rule establishes the legal framework. Additional DHS/SEVP guidance is needed before ISSS can confidently establish procedures for these complex academic pathways.

RUTGERS RESPONSE

- ISSS is meeting with OGC, campus leaderships, academic programs, and J-1 hosting departments to continue interpretation and develop implementation plans
- Website, FAQs, and Alerts
- Campus Communications
- Updating internal processes (E-forms that may require I-94 collection or EOS information)
- D/S Transition Response Working Group

KEY TAKEAWAYS - What Students Need to Know

- Understand the new rule impacts on academic changes (majors and degrees)
 - Student transfers need to be vetted and explored - reverse and lateral moves not allowed
 - Academic restrictions apply to both undergraduates (first academic year) and graduate students (throughout program)
- Travel should always be planned and considered carefully and it is the student's responsibility to communicate and be prepared
- Visa validity and admission are separate concepts: the visa does not itself determine the authorized period of stay
- Any international travel after Sept. 15 will result in final rule impacts

International students must consult with ISSS due to current complexities

KEY RESOURCES

- Rutgers Global Alerts - <https://global.rutgers.edu/all-alerts>
- Rutgers Global Duration of Status FAQs - <https://global.rutgers.edu/duration-of-status>
- USCIS I-539 Information - <https://www.uscis.gov/i-539>
- [Final Rule](#)
- [DOS Guidance Directive 2026-01](#)
- [Study in the States FAQ & Quick Guide](#)

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

- [Offices of the Dean of Students \(ODOS\)](#)
- [Graduate Student Life](#)
- [CAPS](#)
- [Student Health](#)
- [Residence Life Student Support Team](#)
- [Cultural Centers Collaborative](#)
- [Rutgers Global - ISSS](#)



Questions?

APPENDIX I: IMPORTANT TERMS

D/S – Duration of Status

AUD – Admit Until Date

EOS – Extension of Stay

SEVIS – Student and Exchange Visitor
Information System

DSO – Designated School Official

RO/ARO – Responsible Officer /
Alternate Responsible Officer

I-94 – Arrival/Departure Record

USCIS – U.S. Citizenship and
Immigration Services

DHS – Department of Homeland
Security

CBP – U.S. Customs and Border
Protection