

# Master's (Non-Thesis) and Undergraduate Last Semester Notification

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## **What is a last semester?**

A last semester is when a student has only one semester left prior to the completion of their program of study. During an authorized last semester from International Student & Scholar Services, a student may qualify to drop below full time and must request authorization to register for part time credits to complete their studies. If a student's last semester is summer semester, they may not be enrolled at 0 credits. A last semester during the summer will be considered a student's last semester and not a vacation semester. **All students are required to report their last semester to ISSS.**

## **Undergraduate and Non-Thesis Students:**

- You MUST submit a last semester e-form to ISSS through UAtlas
  - If taking less than full time credits in the last semester, you MUST indicate how many credits you are taking on the e-form and request an authorized reduced course load in the last semester. Less than full credit hours is 1-11 credits for undergraduates, 1-8 credits for graduates.
- You MUST be registered for at least one class that requires your on-campus physical attendance. A CPT internship class does not count towards your physical attendance to a class. You cannot have **only** online classes during your last semester.
- As a non-thesis student, you are eligible to apply for part-time or full-time CPT during the last semester as long as you are also enrolled in the course(s) required to graduate. You must end your employment on or before the last day shown on your last semester I-20. For more information, please see [CPT policy guide](#).

## **How do I apply for a last semester?**

To request a last semester, please complete a "Last Semester Notification" E-Form using the UAtlas found at [www.iss.utah.edu](http://www.iss.utah.edu). A new I-20 will be issued authorizing your last semester. Your program end date will be the last day of the semester.

## **Can I do CPT during my last semester?**

Yes, you may be authorized for full-time or part-time CPT in your last semester. The CPT credit must be taken along with the required courses the student needs to graduate. If the student does not have any courses needed to complete the program, they may not apply for CPT, but must end their program. Please contact ISSS for further questions. Students may not participate in CPT outside the state of Utah in their last semester.

## **Can I start working on OPT during last semester?**

No, you cannot start working on your OPT before the program end date on your I-20. However, you can start your OPT application. Please refer to the [Post-Completion OPT Policy Guide](#).

**Can I work on-campus during last semester?**

Yes, if you are offered a position on campus, you are only allowed to work part time (20 hours or less per week). Once your program end date has passed, all on campus employment for CPT must cease.

**What if I reported my last semester but cannot graduate?**

If your last semester has been approved by ISSS and you find out you are not able to graduate that semester, it is possible that you **may or may not** be eligible for a second last semester as long as you have remaining credit required to graduate. If you do not have remaining credit to graduate, you must apply for OPT, return home, or have some other legal means to remain in the U.S. ***If you realize that you will not be graduating as expected, please make an appointment to see an ISSS advisor immediately.***

**Can I travel during my last semester?**

Yes, you are allowed to travel but you should have your I-20, valid passport and valid visa (if expired, you will need to renew before returning to U.S.) for re-entry. Re-entry to the U.S. during your 60 day grace period is not allowed unless you have a pending or approved OPT application. Please contact ISSS if you have any questions before you travel. If you are outside of the U.S. after your program end date and have not applied for OPT, you are no longer eligible to apply for OPT. For more information on OPT, please refer to our [Post-Completion OPT Policy Guide](#).

***Disclaimer:** International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) provides support and information related to U.S. immigration laws and regulations related to F and J status at the University of Utah. ISSS staff are not attorneys and any information provided by ISSS should not be construed as legal advice. Individuals are welcome to consult a qualified immigration attorney for specific legal advice, particularly in complicated cases. For a list of local Utah attorneys please visit our website [here](#).*

**Maintaining Status:** USCIS states that it is the student's responsibility to understand the rules and regulations governing their visa.