

Last Semester Notification for Degree-Seeking J-1 Students

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 a last semester which has been authorized by International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS), a student may drop below full time and register for part time credits to complete their studies. Students may not take a vacation semester after a last semester. All students are required to report their last semester to ISSS within the first 15 days of the last semester.

Undergraduates and Non-Thesis Students:

If your Last Semester Notification request has been approved by the ISSS office, you may take less than full-time credit hours (1-11 credits for undergraduate, 1-8 credits for graduate) during your last semester.

- If you only have one class left to graduate, it cannot be an online class. You must be registered for at least one class that requires your physical attendance.
- You are allowed to participate in part-time on-campus employment or Academic Training (off-campus internship or employment which requires ISSS authorization) during your last semester. Part time employment is 20 hours or less per week. Unless you have applied for post-completion Academic Training, you must end your employment on or before your Program End Date (listed on your DS-2019).

Thesis Students:

As a thesis student, you have two options for choosing your Program End Date during your last semester. Please indicate on your Last Semester Notification E-form which date you would like to use:

- Option 1: Use the last day of the semester as your Program End Date.
- Option 2: Use your thesis defense date as your Program End Date.

How do I apply for last semester?

To report your last semester, please complete a “J-1 Student: Last Semester Notification” E-Form through [UAtlas](#). A new DS-2019 will be issued with the new program end date reflecting your last semester. Your application is not considered to be complete until your academic advisor approves your request. Processing time is up to 2 weeks after both you and your academic advisor’s submissions.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. What if I reported my last semester but cannot graduate?

If you have submitted your Last Semester Notification and find out you are not able to graduate, please make an appointment with a J-1 Program Advisor immediately. You may need to apply for a DS-2019 extension. Please keep in mind the extension **must** be requested at least two weeks before the program end date on your DS-2019. For more information about extending your DS-2019, please refer to the [DS-2019 Extension Guide for Degree-Seeking J-1 Students](#) policy guide.

2. How long can I remain in the U.S. after my Program End Date?

Students on a J-1 Visa are allowed to remain in the U.S. for thirty (30) days after the Program End Date listed on their DS-2019. This is often referred to as your “30 Day Grace Period”. Please remember: if you leave the US during your 30 Day Grace Period and you have not been authorized for post-completion Academic Training, you will not be able to return to the US on your current DS-2019 and J-1 visa.

3. Can I travel during my last semester?

Yes, you are allowed to travel during your last semester. Please remember to travel with your DS-2019 (with a valid travel signature), valid passport, and valid visa (if expired, you will need to renew before returning to U.S.) for re-entry. Unless you have been approved for an authorized period of post-completion Academic Training, re-entry into the U.S. during your 30-day grace period is not allowed. Please contact ISSS if you have any questions before you travel.

4. When should I apply for post-completion Academic Training?

You should apply for post-completion Academic Training at least two weeks before your program end date. If you are interested in Academic Training, please refer to our [Academic Training policy guide](#). It is recommended that you make an appointment with a J-1 Program Advisor to discuss your Academic Training internship or employment opportunity prior to applying.

Please note:

This policy guide is for degree-seeking J-1 students only. If you are a non-degree seeking exchange student on a J-1 visa and you have questions about your last semester, please schedule a **J-1 Program Advising appointment** to discuss your situation.