

# *Elimination of Duration of Status (D/S): The Final Rule*

**Effective September 15, 2026**

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# *What's changing?*

## **The Old System**

- F-1 Students admitted under “Duration of Status” indicated as “D/S” on I-94
- Students eligible to remain in U.S. as long as they maintain status
- More academic flexibility for change of majors, transfers, pursuing 2<sup>nd</sup> Bachelor's or Master's

## **The New System**

- F-1 students admitted for a fixed period (maximum of 4 years per program)
- “Admit Until Date (AUD)” posted on I-94
- Students must file an extension with USCIS to stay beyond that, as well as extensions to complete routine academic changes

***Why this matters:*** It will be more important to track your AUD to maintain your status. Missed deadlines = loss of status.

# *The Major Changes*

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## **No More Second Degrees**

- No “lateral or reverse matriculation”
- Students can no longer be admitted for and complete a second bachelor’s or second master’s in the US

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## **Restricted Program Changes**

- Students can't easily change majors or transfer
- USCIS must approve changes

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## **Extension Filings Required**

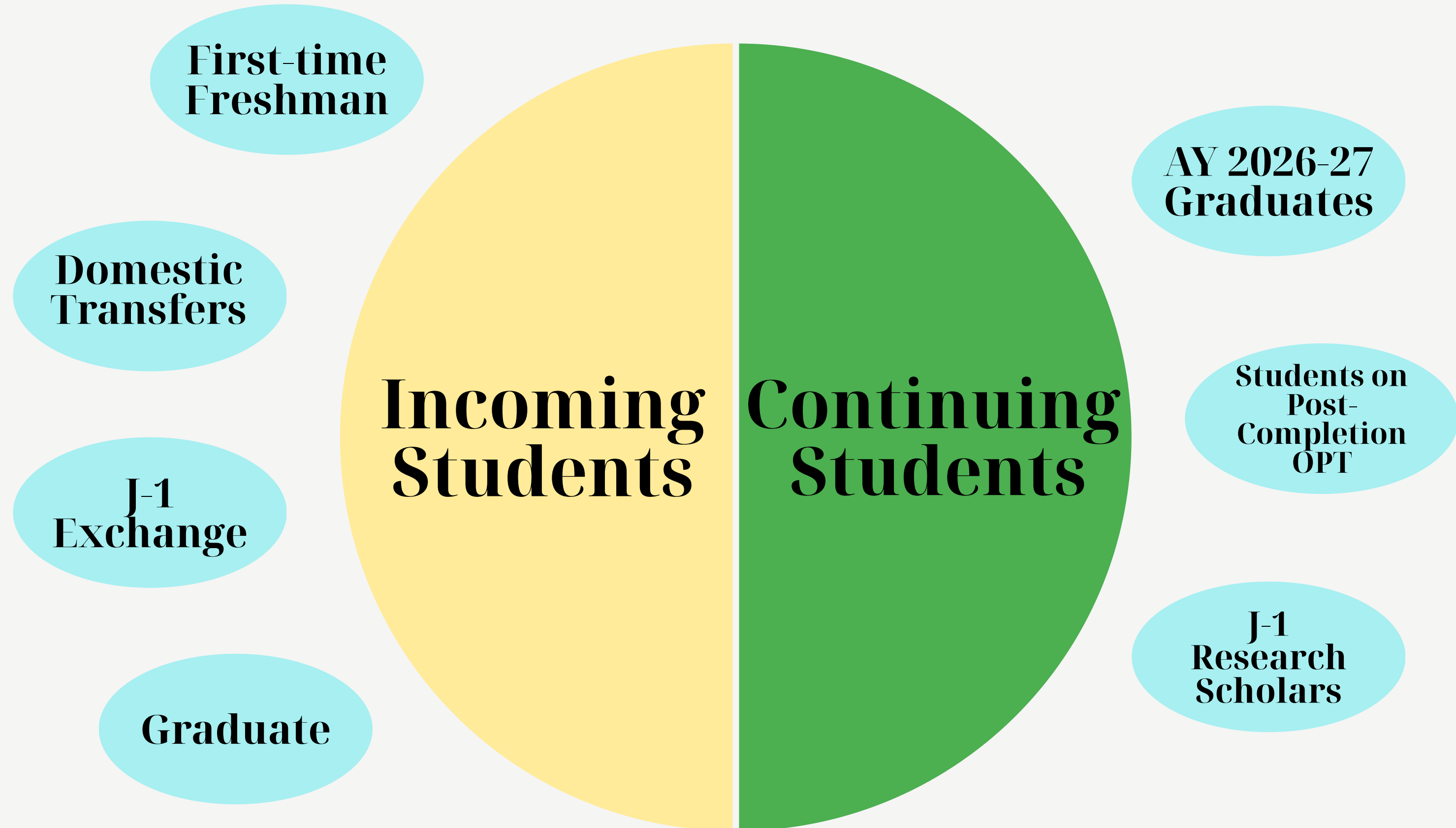
- If you require more than 4 years, or more time beyond your I-20/DS-2019 end date
- Process is non-routine — comes with delays and fees. Academic probation cannot be used as reason to extend.
- Students can fall out of status if missed

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## **Grace Period Cut in Half**

- 60 days → 30 days after program end
- Much tighter timeline to depart, transfer, or apply for OPT

# *Who's affected & how?*



# Incoming Students

- **Students entering U.S. before Sept. 15 will be admitted under current rule and “D/S” will be posted on I-94**
  - **If travel internationally *after* Sept. 15, then upon re-entry fixed end date will be listed on I-94 to correspond with program end date on I-20**
- **Students entering after Sept. 15 will be admitted under new rule and “Admit until date (AUD)” will be posted on I-94**

## **First-time Freshman**

- **Cannot change major in first academic year**
  - **If changing major after first year, Form I-539 EOS application would be required**
- **Cannot transfer in first academic year**
  - **If transferring after first year, Form I-539 EOS application would be required**

## **Graduate**

- **No change of major during program at all**
- **Transfers during program only allowed for “extenuating circumstances”**

# Incoming Students (cont.)

## → Domestic Transfers

- If transferring to Sac State from another U.S. university before Sept. 15, then current rule applies – no need to file EOS for transfer
- Any transfer request after Sept. 15 would require EOS and USCIS review

## → J-1 Exchange

- Exchange students admitted for Fall 2026 who would like to extend their program to Spring 2027 would be required to complete the following steps:
  - Connect with home university to inquire if extension would be allowed
  - Request extension from Sac State ISSS office
  - File I-539 extension (EOS) with USCIS
- Academic Training
  - Students seeking to participate in Academic Training immediately following their program must also submit an EOS application

# Continuing Students

- Students initially admitted under D/S will be awarded a “transition period,” if they do not travel internationally and re-enter the US after Sept. 15
- New academic policies will still apply: change of major, transfer, no lateral or reverse matriculation

**Students Graduating in Fall 2026 or Spring 2027 - IF YOU DO NOT TRAVEL AFTER SEPT. 15**

- maintain 60 day grace period after graduation
- will not need to submit I-539 EOS alongside I-765, if applying for Post-Completion OPT before March 17

**Please note that international travel is still allowed,  
but if you do travel, you will be admitted with AUD  
and will be subject to 30 day grace period.**

# Continuing Students

## **Students on or considering Post-Completion OPT**

- **As long as you do not travel, will not need to submit I-539 EOS alongside I-765, if applying for STEM OPT extension before March 17**

## ***Scenarios***

- **An F-1 student timely files for OPT or STEM OPT before March 17 and remains in U.S.**
  - **Must only file I-765, no need for I-539. If OPT/STEM OPT approved, authorized to remain in U.S. until end date on EAD card**
- **An F-1 student travels outside U.S. before filing OPT or STEM OPT**
  - **Readmitted to U.S. with AUD on I-94**
  - **Must file I-765 and I-539**
- **An F-1 student timely files OPT or STEM OPT before March 17 but depart U.S. while I-765 is pending**
  - **If re-entering U.S. while case is pending, CBP can readmit until DSO's recommended OPT end date on OPT I-20, plus 30 days**
  - **If re-enters U.S. after OPT is approved, CBP can readmit until OPT end date on EAD card, plus 30 days**

# *Communications and Support*

- **ISSS will be updating instructions for OPT, extensions, transfers, and changes of major – with consultation from other campus partners if necessary**
- **ISSS will make every effort to provide timely updates to the F-1 and J-1 Immigration webpage, as additional guidance becomes available**
- **Drop-in advising is available in the Global Lounge (Lassen Hall 1100)**
  - **Monday through Thursday, 10am to 5pm**
- **ISSS will host virtual information sessions as needed**



# *Questions*

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**Thank you for your attention**

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