

# DHS Regulations Update F1 and J1 visa classifications

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September 15, 2026

# F-1 & J-1 Regulatory Update: What University Staff Need to Know

Who needs to know? Faculty, academic staff, administrators, chairs, deans, and international-program personnel



DHS final rule published July 17, 2026 (91 FR 44976)



Scheduled effective date: September 15, 2026



Core change: Duration of Status (D/S) → fixed period of admission

# What Is Changing?

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F-1 students and J-1 exchange visitors move from D/S admission to a fixed admission period

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New/reentry admissions will generally have a specific end date recorded on the I-94

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F and J admissions are generally tied to the program, subject to a four-year maximum per admission

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Students or Researchers who need more time generally must seek an Extension of Stay (I-539 petition for USCIS adjudication) or another lawful pathway

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Until September 15, 2026, the current D/S framework remains in effect

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# Why Academic Units Need to Pay Attention

Program delays and changes can affect immigration timelines

Graduation dates, leaves, withdrawals, suspensions, and program changes should be flagged early

Changes of major, degree level, educational objective, or school will have additional F-1 restrictions

Faculty should not interpret a visa, I-94, I-20, or DS-2019 or promise an immigration outcome

Use a “refer before action” approach

## F-1 and J-1: Key Operational Differences

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F-1: academic students; DSO/SEVP and USCIS processes are central to student status and employment authorization

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J-1: exchange visitors; the program sponsor/Responsible Officer and Department of State rules remain central

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Both classifications move to fixed admission periods under the DHS rule (4 year maximum per admission)

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Both may need an Extension of Stay (USCIS adjudication) when the authorized admission period is insufficient

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J-1 cases can also involve sponsor-specific requirements and the two-year home-residence rule where applicable

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# What We Need From Faculty & Administrators



Notify the international office early about expected graduation delays or major academic changes



Before approving a change of program, degree level, transfer, leave, or withdrawal, ask the student to consult the DSO/RO



Before assigning internships, research employment, assistantships, or other work, confirm the appropriate authorization process



Encourage students and scholars to check their I-94 after entry/reentry



Use consistent language: “Please consult the international office before proceeding.”

# ***SEVP Guidance CPT***



**Broadcast Message: Guidance for  
Designated School Officials  
regarding Curricular Practical  
Training**



**To: PDSOs and DSOs at SEVP-  
certified Schools**



**Date: August 24, 2026**

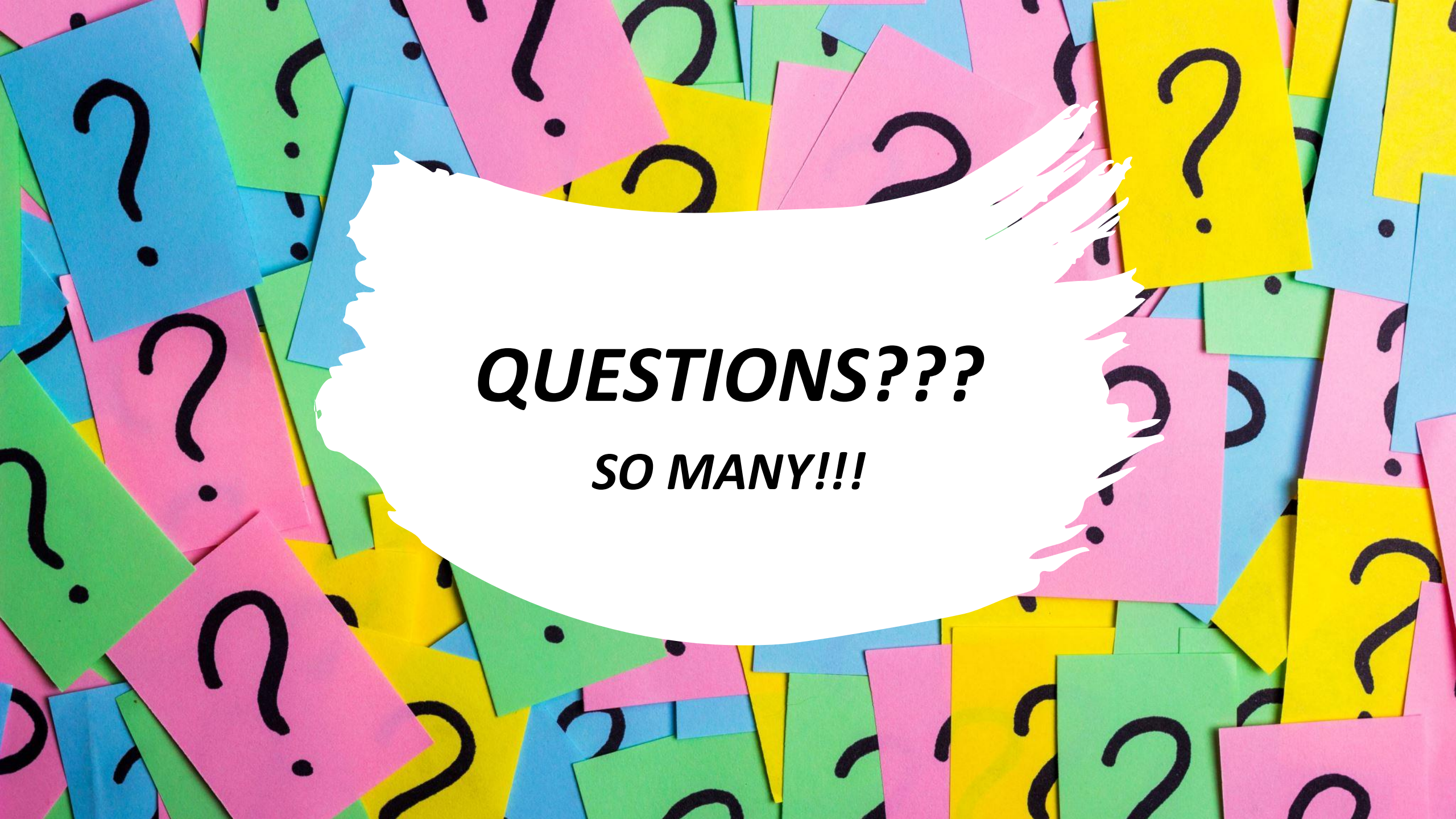
# Take aways

- **How is CPT defined in regulation?**

A foreign student may be authorized by a DSO to participate in a CPT program that is an integral part of an established curriculum. Curricular practical training is defined as alternative work/study, internship, cooperative education or any other type of required internship or practicum that is offered by sponsoring employers through cooperative agreements with the school.

- **Can CPT be offered as a part of an elective course?**

In any instance where an elective course is optional, making the CPT optional, the integral and required aspects of CPT would not be met. CPT is an integral part of an established curriculum, and the practical training is required for all students participating in that curriculum, regardless of citizenship.



***QUESTIONS???***  
***SO MANY!!!***