

F-1 & J-1 Administrator Handout: Current vs. New Rule

Issue	Current framework	New rule / transition
Admission	D/S (Duration of Status) while maintaining status, actively studying full time	Fixed admission period (4 years maximum) with a specific I-94 end date for new/reentry admissions
Program length	I-20 F1 / DS-2019 J1 dates are central, they determine the program end date	Admission generally tied to program; but F or J will have a maximum of four years per admission into the territory
More time needed	F-1 program extension via DSO/SEVIS when eligible; J-1 via sponsor/RO	Will require USCIS Extension of Stay petition (I-539) or another lawful pathway
Post-completion	F-1 60 days grace period; J-1 30 days grace period	New fixed framework provides 30 days for F & J; transition rules apply to qualifying current holders
Academic mobility	Existing F-1 transfer/change rules; students may transfer to other institutions and/or programs	Additional restrictions affect certain F-1 transfers/objective changes and same/lower-level progression. Undergraduate students must complete one full academic year to be able to change programs or transfer, graduate students are prohibited to change program of study or educational objectives
Institutional role	Academic unit + DSO/RO coordinate as needed	Earlier coordination is critical because federal end dates become more important
Transition	Current D/S framework	Qualifying current F & J visa holders receive transition provisions; case-specific review required