



WESTCLIFF
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F-1 STUDENT RULE CHANGE

Key Differences You Need to Know

FEATURE	LEGACY RULE (Pre-September 15, 2026)	NEW RULE (On or After September 15, 2026)
 Form I-94 Entry Stamp	Marked as D/S (Duration of Status)	Specific Admit Until Date (AUD)
 Maximum Admission Period	Duration of degree program + grace period	Program End Date or 4 Years Max (whichever is shorter)
 Program Extensions	DSO updates SEVIS directly (No fee/USCIS)	DSO Recommendation + Form I-539 to USCIS (Fee + Biometrics)
 Departure Grace Period	60 Days	30 Days (for entries/re-entries after September 15)
 Same-Level/ Second Degrees	Allowed (e.g. 2nd Master's degree)	Prohibited within in U.S. (Must advance to Ph.D./doctoral level) <i>Unless First Masters Degree was conferred on 9/14/26 or earlier</i>
 First-Year Undergrad Changes	Allowed anytime via DSO update	Restricted major/school changes during 1st academic year



IMPORTANT: These changes apply to all students effective September 15, 2026, including those who are already in the U.S. Always check with your ISSA if you have questions.

