

Frequently Asked Questions

What qualifies as a “compelling medical reason?”

- Any documented illness or psychological challenge supported with a written statement by a licensed medical professional.

What qualifies as a “compelling academic reason?”

- No matter the reason stated below, a student should be able to prove that “normal” progress towards completion of degree has been made throughout enrollment at SUU.
 - o Change of Major
 - o Previously authorized Reduction of Course Load
 - Initial difficulty with English language
 - Improper course level placement
 - Unfamiliarity with US teaching methods
 - o Change in research topic
 - o Challenges with passing program requirements
- Compelling reasons do **not** include:
 - o Avoiding program requirements
 - o Replacing program requirements with recreational courses
 - o Probation or Required to Withdraw
 - o Dismissal from program (ESL students)

What happens if I want to request an extension after my completion date has already passed?

- At this point a student is considered to be in their “grace period” after their program completion, and is no longer eligible to request a program extension.

If I’m unable to extend my I-20, but want to complete my program, what can I do?

- Apply for reinstatement
- Exit the United States and apply for admission with a new SEVIS ID and New I-20 for initial attendance
 - o Apply for a new I-20 from ISSS
 - o Pay the SEVIS I-901 Fee
 - www.fmjfee.com
 - o Exit and Re-enter the United States

Can I extend my I-20 in order to spend more time in the United States?

- No, this would be considered a misuse of the program extension. Students are only able to extend in order to allow more time to complete their listed degree.