



Last Semester Notification

What is a last semester?

A last semester is when a student has only one semester left prior to the completion of their program of study. During an authorized last semester from ISSS, a student may drop below full time and register for part time credits to complete their studies. Students may not take a vacation semester after a last semester. **All students are required to report their last semester to ISSS within the first 15 days of the last semester.**

Undergraduate and Non-Thesis Students:

- You may take less than full credit hours (1-11 credits for undergraduate, 1-8 credits for graduate) if you have submitted your last semester notification to ISSS.
- You must be registered for at least one class that requires your on-campus physical attendance. A CPT internship class does not count towards your physical attendance to a class. You cannot have only online classes during your last semester.
- As a non-thesis student, you are eligible to apply for part-time CPT during the last semester (20 hours or less per week). You must end your employment on or before the last day shown on your last semester I-20.

Thesis Students:

- As a thesis student, you may take your last semester as a correction semester (0 credits) and it must follow your defense semester. Please refer to our Correction Semester policy on www.ic.utah.edu.
- If you choose to not have a correction semester but instead apply for OPT and complete your thesis while on OPT, you still need to report your last semester to ISSS.

How do I apply for last semester?

To report your last semester, please complete a “Last Semester Notification” E-Form using the iStart link  found at www.ic.utah.edu. A new I-20 will be issued with a new program end date reflecting your last semester. Your application is not considered to be complete until your academic advisor approves your request. Processing time is up to 2 weeks after both the student and the academic advisor’s submissions.

What if I reported my last semester but cannot graduate?

If you have filed your last semester and find out you are not able to graduate, *please see an ISSS advisor immediately as this may affect your OPT eligibility.* You may need to apply for an I-20 extension. Please keep in mind the extension **must** be requested at least two weeks before the program end date on your I-20. If your I-20 expires, you will be considered out of status and will need to reinstate. For more information on I-20 extension and reinstatement, please refer to our policies on www.ic.utah.edu.

Can I travel during my last semester?

Yes, you are allowed to travel but you should have your I-20, valid passport and valid visa (if expired, you will need to renew before returning to U.S.) for re-entry. Re-entry to the U.S. during your 60 day grace period is not allowed unless you have a pending or approved OPT. Please contact ISSS if you have any questions before you travel. If you are outside of the U.S. after your program end date and have not applied for OPT, you are no longer eligible to apply for OPT. For more information on OPT, please refer to our Post-Completion OPT policy on www.ic.utah.edu.