



Comparison of F-1 & J-1 Student Immigration Regulations with ISU Interpretations

	F-1 STUDENTS	J-1 STUDENTS
ELIGIBILITY	Any potential student	Based on funding or established relationship
LENGTH OF PROGRAM	No limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No limits for student in degree program• Non-degree limited to 24 months
CHANGE OF MAJOR	Allowed	May be permitted if considered continuation of J program activity. Must have ISSO approval prior to change of major
CHANGE OF EDUCATIONAL LEVEL	Allowed to move upward or downward in degree program levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allowed to move only upward• Cannot change from non-degree to degree
TRANSFER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allowed• Must start at new school within 5 months or next available semester, whichever comes first	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allowed only if is considered a continuation of original J program activity as stated on original DS-2019• Cannot have break in DS-2019 dates
GRACE PERIOD AFTER COMPLETING PROGRAM	60 days	30 days
CHANGE OF STATUS	Possible	Possible, but only if not subject to 212(e) home residency requirement
212E HOME RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT	Does not apply	May be subject to 212e home residency requirement depending on if: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Academic major is on country's skills list- Receiving government funding 212e Home Residency requires J-1 to return to home country for aggregate of 2 years.

TERMINOLOGY

DOS	U.S. Department of State
USCIS	U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
PDSO	Primary Designated School Official
DSO	Designated School Official
RO	Responsible Officer
ARO	Alternate Responsible Officer



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EMPLOYMENT	ON CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT & LIMITS	<p>Permitted by F-1 status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 20 hours total per week during fall and spring semesters• Full-time during official ISU breaks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written authorization from RO/ARO• Authorization valid for 12 months• 20 hours total per week during fall and spring semesters• Full-time during official ISU breaks
	CURRICULAR PRACTICAL TRAINING VS ACADEMIC TRAINING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eligible after one academic year• Work authorization before student completes degree requirements• Not recommended to exceed 365 days of full-time CPT, as student would be ineligible for OPT• Authorized by ISSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Available after one semester• Pre-completion or post-completion• Total AT permitted:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- No more than time spent in program- 18 months for bachelor's or master's and doctorate- Additional 18 months after defending doctorate- Restricted to 18 months at a time- Authorized by ISSO
	OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING VS ACADEMIC TRAINING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eligible after one academic year• Work authorization after student completes degree requirements• Up to 12 months per per higher educational level• Students in STEM fields can apply for a 24-month OPT extension• Authorized by USCIS	

	F-2 DEPENDENTS	J-2 DEPENDENTS
ENROLLMENT AT POST-SECONDARY LEVEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited to part-time• Can be for a non-degree or degree program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can be part-time or full-time• Can be for a non-degree or degree program
WORK	Cannot work under any circumstances	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No restrictions• Requires authorization from USCIS