

#

**PLANNING AHEAD: MAINTAINING VISA STATUS AFTER GRADUATION
Worksheet Instructions:** Fill in the blanks below with the dates applicable to your specific situation.
This document is available for students as a planning tool and is not intended to constitute legal advice.

|  |
| --- |
| ***DISCLAIMER:*** *The information provided on this document does not, and is not intended to, constitute legal advice; instead, all information, content, and materials available during this session are for general informational purposes only. Students accessing the following content should contact their attorney to obtain advice with respect to any particular legal matter. No reader, user, or viewer of the following content should act or refrain from acting on the basis of information provided without first seeking legal advice from counsel in the relevant jurisdiction. Only your individual attorney can provide assurances that the information contained herein – and your interpretation of it – is applicable or appropriate to your specific situation. All liability with respect to actions taken or not taken based on the contents of this site are hereby expressly disclaimed.*  |

 **A. KEY DATES**

|  |
| --- |
| * **My expected program end date1 is:**      *(****1*** *The program end date is the last date of enrollment in final graduating quarter. For graduate students on filing fee, this date may also be the comprehensive exam or dissertation/thesis defense date. For graduate students enrolled in final quarter, it may also be the last date of on-campus employment.)*
* **My grace period begins2 on:**

*(****2****The grace period begins the day after the expected program end date.)** **My grace period ends3 on:**      *(***3***The grace period ends 60 days after the expected program end date.)*
 |

**B. OPTIONS TO MAINTAIN VISA STATUS AFTER COMPLETION OF STUDIES**

|  |
| --- |
| **Option 1: Apply to Work After Graduation (Post-Completion OPT) (Visit** [**OPT.ucsd.edu**](https://opt.ucsd.edu) **for more info)** * **The earliest date4 I can apply for OPT with USCIS will be on:**

*(****4*** *You are eligible to apply for OPT up to 90 days prior to you program end date.)** **The latest date5 I can apply for OPT with USCIS will be on:**      *(****5*** *You are eligible to apply for OPT up to 60 days after your program end date.* ***NOTE:*** *OPT Applications needs to be received by USCIS within 30 days of OPT I-20 issuance date, or before the end of grace period,* ***whichever date is earlier****.)*
 |
| **Option 2: Begin a Higher Level Graduate Program/New Program (see our** [**transfer page**](https://ispo.ucsd.edu/advising/visa/current-returning-students/visa-status/leaving-ucsd/sevis-transfer-out.html) **for more info).*** **The latest date6 my SEVIS record can be transferred out to another school is on**:      *(****6*** *You are eligible to request to transfer your SEVIS record to another SEVP-approved institution within 60 days after your program end date. Your SEVIS record must be released before the end of this 60-day period.)*
* **The latest date7 I can apply for a Change of Degree Level at UC San Diego is on**:      *(****7*** *You are eligible to request a change of level within 60 days after your current program end date.)*
 |
| **Option 3: Change your status to another visa status.*** **If you’re changing your visa status, please consult an immigration attorney regarding your timeline.**
 |
| **Option 4: Depart the U.S. during the grace period.*** **The latest date8 I can remain in the U.S. without pursing any options provided above is:**       *(****8*** *You are eligible to remain in the U.S. up to 60 days after your program end date.)*
 |