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**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.

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**A. KEY DATES**

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| * **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**

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| **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.)* |