

International Student Services

Immigration Documentation

Passport:

The expiration date in your passport should always be valid at least 6 months into the future. To extend your passport expiration date, please contact your country's nearest consulate or embassy or come to the International Student Services office for the address.

Visa:

This is the stamp put in your passport by the United States consul in your home country. You need this visa only to ENTER the U.S. The date on the visa shows the latest date you can enter the United States, not how long you can stay here. If it is expired, OR if you change your visa status while in the United States, you must reapply for a new visa only if you plan to leave the United States and re-enter. It is not necessary to extend your visa if you are not planning a trip outside the United States.

I-94:

This is your Arrival/Departure Record. It is the small white paper usually stapled to the page next to your visa stamp in your passport. The date written on the lower right hand corner is the date you must leave the United States. Duration of Status (D/S) is the notation on the I-94. This means that you can legally remain in the United States until you finish your degree program. For exceptions, please see your international student advisor.

Official Acceptance Document:

When you entered the U.S., your official acceptance document was returned to you by the immigration inspector at your port of entry. This form (or a copy) should be kept with you at all times and NOT be given up when you leave the United States as it will be needed to re-enter the United States after a temporary absence. All records of school transfers, work permission, etc will be recorded on a SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitors Information System) print-out of this form. The official acceptance document will have a SEVIS number in the upper right corner.

NOTE:

Make photocopies of your passport and official acceptance document and keep in an accessible place separate from the originals. Keep your original documents in a safe place.