



International Programs and Initiatives
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**UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS – PROGRAM COMPLETION
 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

International students in F-1 status are authorized by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to enter the U.S. for the purpose pursuing a full course of study leading to the attainment of a specific educational or professional objective. (8CFR214.2(f)(6)) Students may be authorized less than full-time enrollment in their final semester with prior approval of the UAF-appointed SEVIS Primary Designated School Official, located in the Office of International Programs and Initiatives as authorized by immigration regulation.

Program completion for immigration purposes is deemed to be the final day of the semester for students enrolled in a semester-long course which meets on regularly scheduled, specified days and times for the duration of the semester. Students enrolled in condensed courses are deemed to have completed their programs on the last day of required attendance during their final semester.

GRADUATE STUDENTS WITH THESIS/PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

For those students who are enrolled only in graduate thesis or research credits and who have met all other course requirements in a previous semester, program completion is calculated from the date of thesis or project defense not the last day of the semester date. The official program completion date for these students is the earlier of

- (1) two months from the defense date OR
- (2) **Thesis requirement:** the date the academic department chair signs the thesis/dissertation signature page or
- Project requirement:** the date the project credits change of grade is submitted by the academic department chair.

This provides time for students to make recommended corrections and/or revisions to the document following the defense and prior to the 60-day grace period commencing after the program completion date. Exceptions will be considered in which a defense has been held prematurely due to circumstances beyond students' control. Written requests should be submitted to the UAF-appointed SEVIS Primary Designated School Official, located in the Office of International Programs and Initiatives.

Notes:

Registration for three graduate credits during the official semester of graduation is a UAF administrative requirement, and unless otherwise required for academic reasons such as thesis or project defense, is not considered enrollment for immigration purposes. (8CFR214.2(f)(10)(ii)(A))

Employment authorization ends on the program completion date, not the end of the semester, unless students have applied for and received Optional Practical Training employment authorization approval.


 Susan Henrichs
 Provost

5/10/12
 Date:


 Michael Sraga
 Vice Chancellor, Student Services

5/10/12
 Date:


 Lawrence K. Duffy
 Interim Dean, Graduate School

May 9, 2012
 Date: