

Tips for Choosing a SEVIS Record Release Date

1. If you are currently enrolled at ISU and will finish the semester, then your SEVIS Record Release Date will most often be the day after your current semester completion date. However, you may also choose any date within 60 days of that completion date.

Example: An international student finishing the Spring semester on May 7 could choose any date between May 8 and July 6 as their Release Date.

IMPORTANT: You must begin classes at the new school within 5 months of your last day of classes at ISU or your Release Date, whichever is sooner.

2. **If you are currently working on campus**, you will need to stop working on your Release Date.
3. **If you are currently on CPT**, you will need to stop working on your Release Date or your CPT end date (whichever is sooner).
4. **If you are currently on OPT**, you can choose a Release Date during your OPT and up to 60 days following your OPT expiration date. However, you will need to stop working on your Release Date or your OPT expiration date (whichever is sooner).
5. **If you will be traveling outside of the US**, you should consider your travel plans when determining your SEVIS Record Release Date. Whichever school holds your SEVIS record at the time of your re-entry is the school whose I-20 you must have with you at the port of entry.

Example 1: An international student (not graduating) will finish the semester on May 7 and travel home to India for two weeks, returning to the US on May 22. This student should wait to release their SEVIS record until after they have returned to the US.

Example 2: An international student is graduating on May 7 and wants to travel home to South Korea and return to the US on June 2. Because this student is graduating and completing their program on May 7, they cannot travel and re-enter the US on their current I-20. They should consult the new school to see if there will be enough time for them to receive their new I-20 before re-entering the country.

Example 3: An international student will finish the semester on May 7, go home to China for the summer vacation, and return to the US in the Fall to begin classes at the new school. This student should release their SEVIS record on May 7, giving the new school plenty of time to create the new I-20 and mail it to the student in China.