

The UAF Faculty Senate passed the following at Meeting #175, May 2, 2011:

**RESOLUTION:**

The UAF Faculty Senate recommends the Office of International Programs (OIP), in consultation with national immigration legal counsel, review UAF's interpretation of the "completion date" for graduate programs used for international students, and revise the "completion date" definition to enable students to complete all program requirements before

losing F-1 status.

**Motivation and background**

- According to U.S. immigration rules students in F-1 status have to leave the country within 2 months of the expiration of their visa, or the end date of their graduate program, whichever comes first. Currently UAF considers students in F-1 status to have completed their graduate program ten days after the date of their defense or after the last in-person

Appendix:

**What Constitutes 'Graduate Program Completion Date' for International Students at some other US Universities? (compiled on: April 6, 2011)**

your program completion date will be May 12 - the last day of final exams. If you are a graduate student and enrolled in only thesis or research credits, your program completion date will be your date of project or the date of your defense or additional 2 weeks. If you are employed on a Research or Teaching

Assistantship, employment authorization ends effective with the program completion date ~ not the end of the semester ~ unless you have applied for and received your OPT card (see below)."