

Navigating the End of Duration of Status (D/S)

Applying for OPT Under the New Rule

*Establishing a Fixed Time Period of Admission and an Extension of Stay Procedure for
Nonimmigrant Academic Students, Exchange Visitors, and Representatives of Foreign
Information Media, published July 17, 2026*

#YouAreWelcomeHere

#YouAreWelcomeHere is a welcome message from U.S. higher education to international students around the world. It is a campaign designed to affirm that our institutions are diverse, friendly, safe and committed to student development. The repetition of the statement, “You are welcome here,” demonstrates that we support internationalization across our campus communities and across the country.

www.youarewelcomehereusa.org

Federal Lawsuit Filed

Challenging the rule to end duration of status

On Tuesday, August 18, **NAFSA** and the **Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration** led a coalition of six other organizations in filing a complaint and a motion for preliminary injunction that challenges the DHS final rule ending the Duration of Status framework for international students, exchange visitors, and representatives of foreign media.

Key Terms to Know

OPT (Optional Practical Training)

- Work authorization related to your field of study

AUD (Admit Until Date)

- A fixed date on your I-94 showing how long you may stay in the U.S.

EOS (Extension of Stay)

- A formal application to extend your stay beyond your AUD

D/S (Duration of Status)

- No fixed AUD date on your I-94

First, Let's Review the Current OPT Process

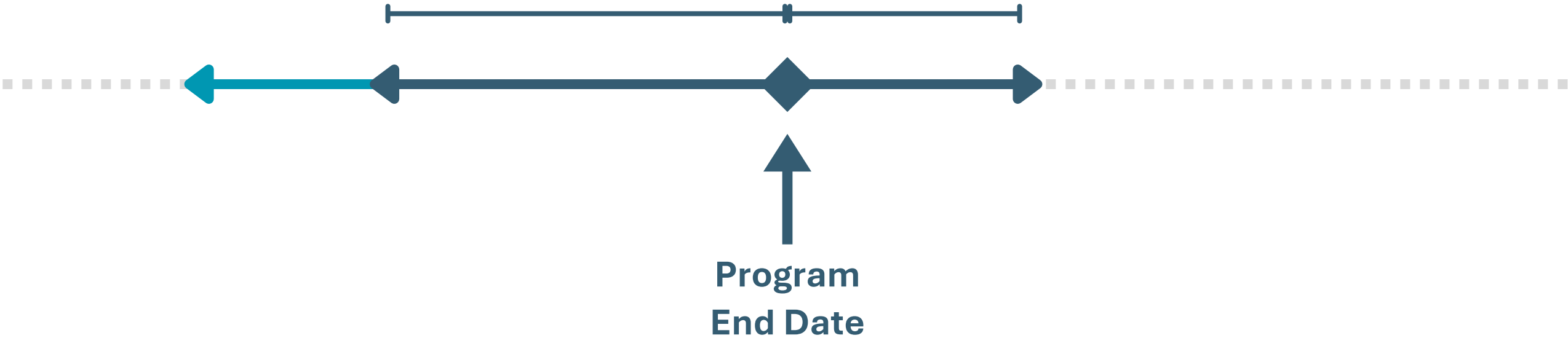


Current OPT Application Timeline

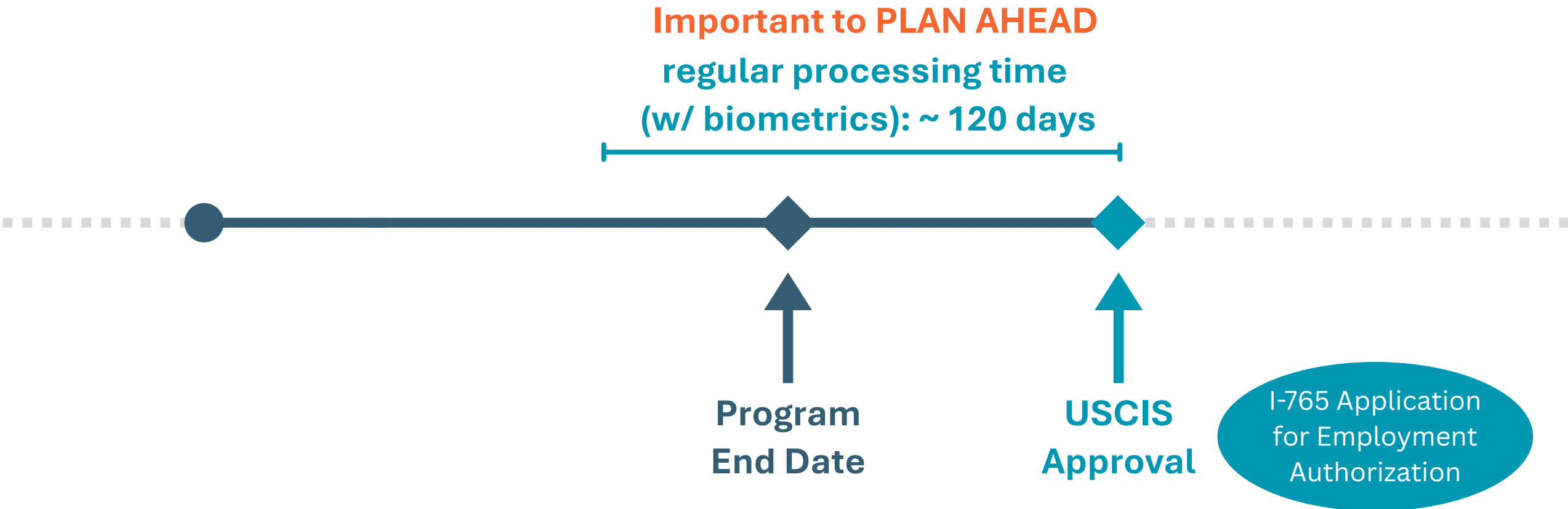
Talk to ISP
~ 30 days prior
OPT Requested I-20

90 days

**60-day
grace period**

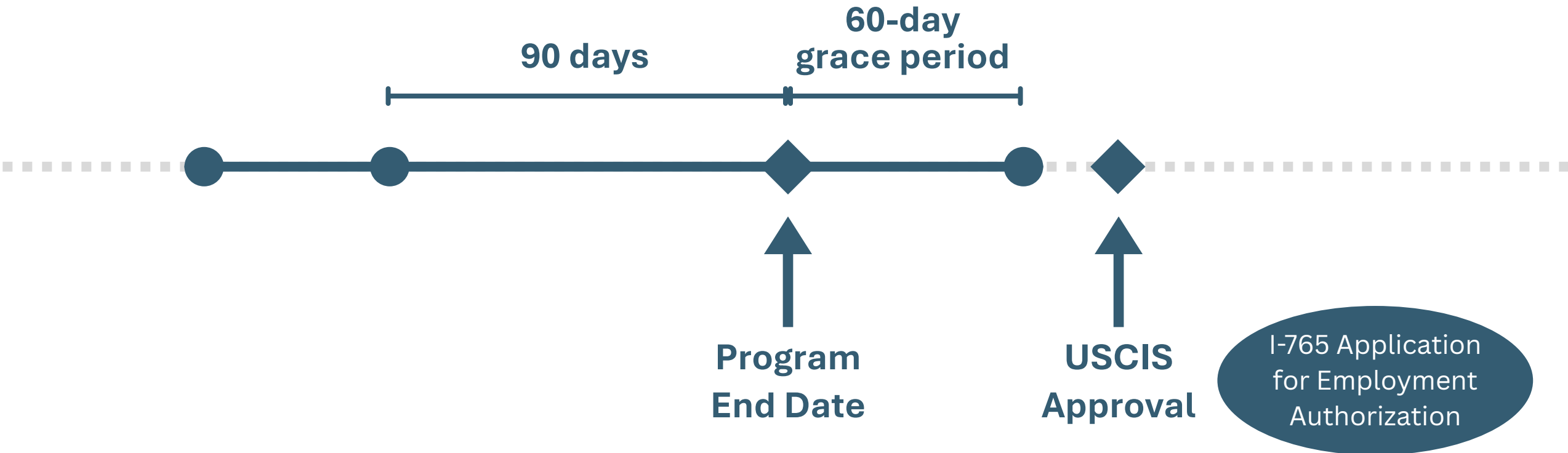


Current OPT Application Timeline



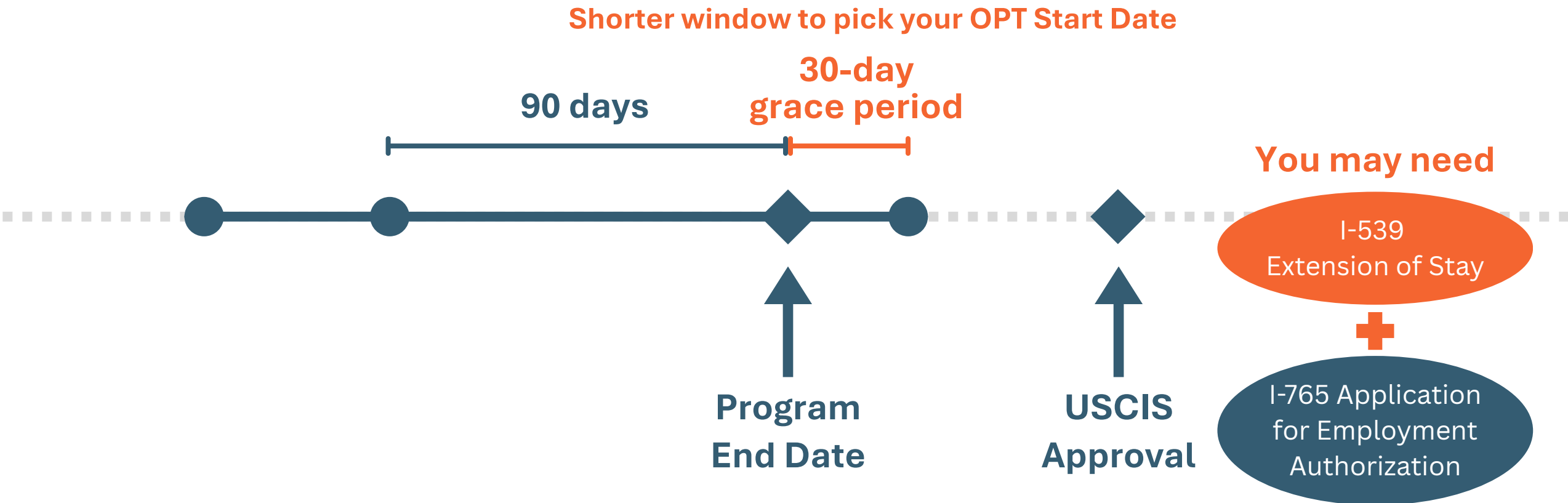
9/15/2026

For OPT applicants, what **changes** after the new rule?



9/15/2026

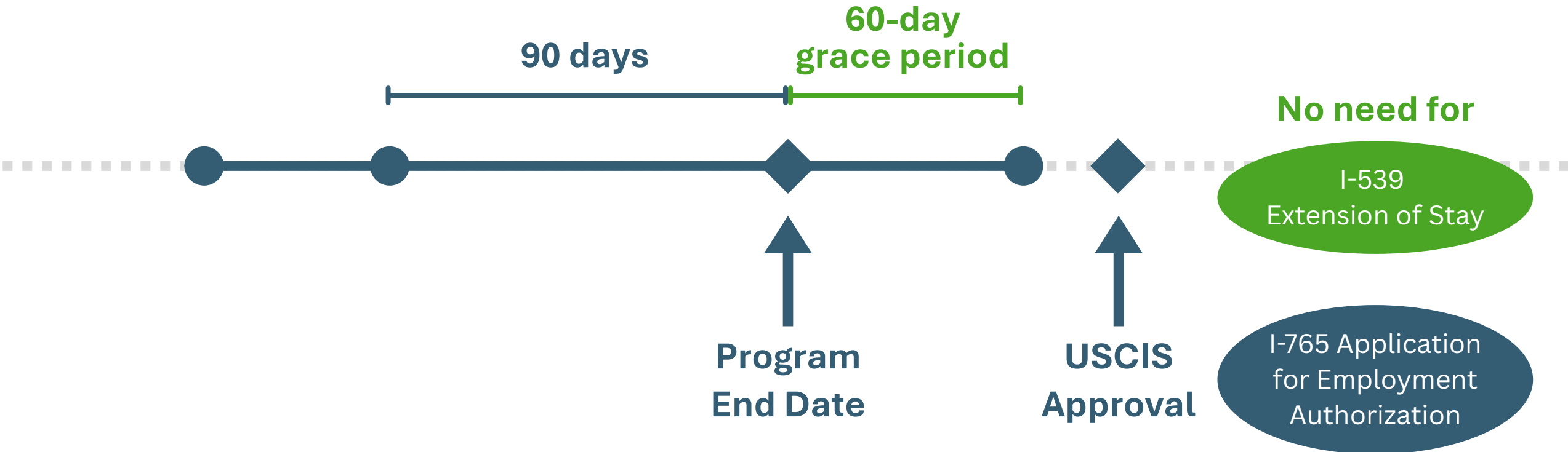
For OPT applicants, what changes after the new rule?



The Transition Period

Who's eligible?

- In the U.S. on or before 9/14/2026
- File OPT on or before **3/18/2027**
- Most recent I-94 states "D/S"
- No travel and re-entry before OPT biometrics



Transition Period vs. New Rule

	Transition Period (File on or before 3/18/2027)	New Rule
Most Recent I-94	AUD: D/S	AUD: Fixed date
OPT Application	File I-765	File I-765
Extension of Stay	No EOS needed	EOS may be required
Grace Period	Up to 60 days	Up to 30 days
OPT Start Date	Within 60 days after Program End Date	Within 30 days after Program End Date

BS Student Graduating June 2027

- Program End Date: 6/11/2027
- No travel on or after 9/15/2026
- Most Recent I-94: D/S

Although the student's current I-20 Program End Date is 6/30/2027, it will be updated to align with the Commencement date 6/11/2027.



Q: My current I-20 Program End Date is after June 2027. Can I graduate early and file for OPT during the **Transition Period?**

- Yes! If you complete your program early, ISP can update your I-20 Program End Date, which may allow you to file within the **Transition Period**.

Q: Can I file after 3/18/2027?

- Yes! You will **not be eligible** for the **Transition Period** and will need to complete the **EOS** process.

Q: Can I travel before receiving my EAD Card?

- Yes! You may travel after filing your I-765 and completing biometrics.

Q: Can I travel before filing for OPT?

- Travel may change your OPT timeline and application process.
- See the next example...

BS Student Graduating June 2027

- Program End Date: 6/11/2027
- Travels on or after 9/15/2026
- Most Recent I-94: AUD = 7/10/2027

For this student, their AUD = Program End Date
+ 30-day grace period

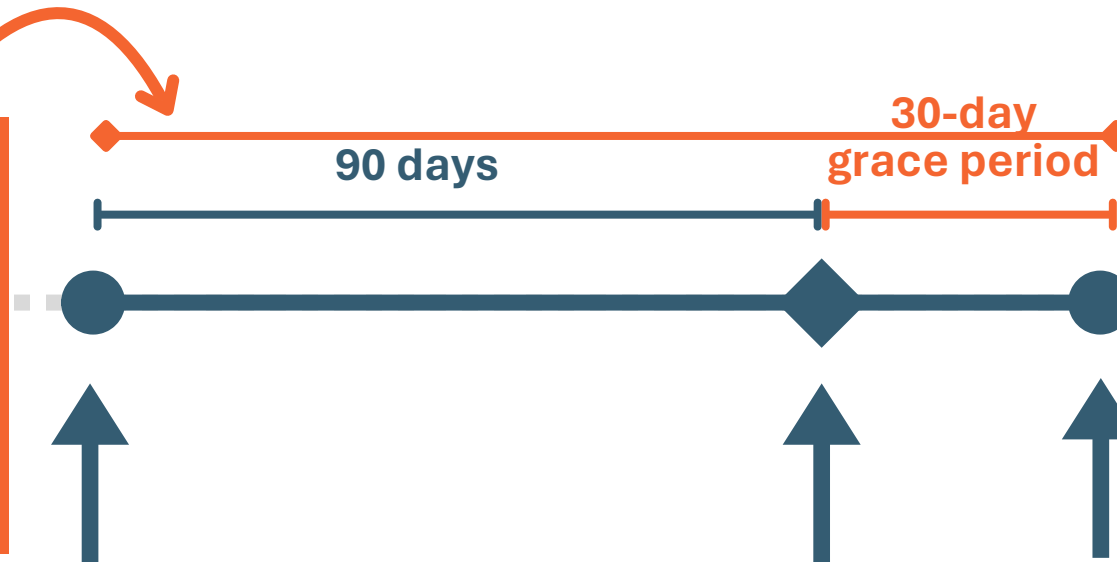
Filing Window:

- 3/13/2027 - 7/10/2027
- File I-765 + I-539
- EOS procedure required
- Transition Period no longer applies after traveling

Earliest Filing Date:
3/13/2027

Program End Date
6/11/2027

Latest requested OPT Start Date:
7/10/2027



Things to Keep In Mind

Know Your Documents

- **I-20** → Check your Program End Date
 - Are you eligible to file for OPT under the **Transition Period**?
- **Visa** (issued by the U.S. Consulate) → Check the expiration date
- **Passport** → Check the expiration date
- **I-94** → retrieve, review, print EVERY time you enter the U.S.
 - <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/search/recent-search>



Thanks and Stay Engaged

Continue sending ISP your questions

- isp@caltech.edu

Other Resources:

- [International Student Resource Center \(ISRC\)](#)
- [StudyintheStates](#)
 - [Planning Tool for Post Completion OPT](#)
- [NAFSA: Association of International Educators](#)
- International Students Association at Caltech (ISAC) [Slack](#) for community!

STEP 3: Determine General Time Limits and Deadlines on Post-Completion OPT Application Based on Program End Date			
Enter the program end date on the Form I-20: 11-Jun-27			
The earliest date the Form I-765 can be filed with USCIS:		13-Mar-27	
The last date the DSO can recommend OPT in SEVIS:		10-Aug-27	
Form I-765 must be filed with USCIS by:		10-Aug-27	
Post-completion OPT must begin between: 12-Jun-27 and 10-Aug-27			