

Augustana College Intentional Delay in Graduation Guide

I.a.fowler 4.20.21

The [Augustana degree](#) is designed to be a four-year degree. The campus [supports and resources](#) put in place are aimed at assisting students with a timely graduation as outlined in [our pledge to students](#). Augustana does not counsel or recommend any student extend their time to degree completion. Therefore, there are only a few, rare situations under which a student might consider intentionally delaying their graduation. Students who are seeking to knowingly delay their graduation from Augustana should be aware of the following information as it relates to their plans and individual circumstances.

Completing additional programs

Some students who are eligible to graduate may choose to delay graduation in order to complete an additional [major or minor](#). Students who delay graduation *may* be eligible for state or federal financial aid. In most instances, institutional financial aid will not be available. Students also have the option to return to Augustana and complete additional coursework toward another program *after* they have graduated, but [strict policies](#) about qualifying coursework apply.

NOTE! Students considering these options should review their program evaluation and financial aid with their family, advisors and financial aid office before making a decision.

Participation in an Augustana-sponsored event, trip or experience

Students seeking to participate in an experience (internship, research, study away, etc.) that concludes in the term or semester *following* their anticipated semester of graduation have two options.

1. *Delay graduation to the following semester.* Students *may* be eligible for state or federal financial aid and Augie Choice. In most instances, institutional financial aid will not be available. Graduation will not be processed until the [next conferral date](#). See [graduation dates](#) and [policies](#) for details.
2. *Graduate as planned.* The student will graduate prior to the experience and participate as a non-degree student ([application required](#)). Financial aid and Augie Choice are not available to students who have earned a degree.

NOTE! Students considering this option should review their program evaluation and financial aid with their family, advisors, financial aid office, internship director, Augie Choice coordinator and the director of study away programs before making a decision.

Participation in a final season of NCAA III athletic eligibility

Students who have remaining NCAA athletic eligibility occasionally make the decision to delay graduation to compete in their final season. Students considering this option should be aware of the following:

1. Student-athletes must be properly registered for the minimum required credits during all terms and semesters of participation in accordance with NCAA/CCIW rules and regulations.
2. Student-athletes must be declared academically and athletically eligible to participate.
3. Student-athletes must have at least one outstanding **required** course or requirement to fulfill in their final semester of enrollment.
4. Student-athletes cannot register only for a J-term course. In order to enroll in J-term they must be enrolled in full-time (12 credits) for fall semester.
5. Student-athletes who choose to drop coursework to delay graduation do so at their own risk and must do so within all [published deadlines](#).
6. Choosing to delay graduation does not guarantee playing time or a spot on the team roster.

NOTE! Students considering this option should review their program evaluation and financial aid with their family, athletic director, coach and advisors prior to making this decision.

In each of these above situations, the following details will apply and should be carefully taken into consideration and discussed with those who are assisting the student with paying for their education.

- Cancellations
 - The college is not responsible for cancellations to programs, trips, internships, athletic seasons or coursework that may impact student plans for future participation or graduation timeline.
- Financial aid
 - Financial aid may be impacted by a delay in graduation and every student's financial situation is unique. Every student should discuss their aid package with a financial aid counselor and their families prior to making a decision to delay graduation.
- Costs
 - [Tuition and fees](#) may be different based on full-time or part-time enrollment and whether aid can be applied. In addition, families should consider all of the additional costs involved living near campus for the anticipated adjusted timeline, including rent/campus housing, meals, transportation, etc.
- Degree requirements
 - The [responsibility](#) for meeting and completing all degree requirements rests entirely with the student.
- Candidacy for Graduation
 - Any student who changes their plans for graduation is responsible for immediately notifying the [Office of the Registrar](#) about their change in plans. Students who do not do so may be ineligible for participation in Commencement, risk further delays to the posting of their degree or incur additional fees for diploma reprinting.
- Participation in Commencement
 - Any student who is an eligible candidate for graduation (90 or more credits) and who has officially applied to graduate may participate in **one** Commencement ceremony of their choosing. Students who delay their graduation may choose which ceremony they wish to participate in. See [Commencement and Graduation policies](#) for more information.
- Student Responsibility
 - The final decision to intentionally delay graduation lies entirely with the student. The college does not guarantee that required coursework needed for degree completion will be available at the time the student would require it.

Further contacts and information may be found here:

Office of Financial Aid, [Matt Walsh](#), Associate Director of Financial Aid

Business Office, [Diane McCann](#), Student Accounts Services Director

International and Off-Campus Study Office, [Dr. Pedro Bidegaray](#), Director of International and Off Campus Programs

Augie Choice, [Beth Ford](#), Coordinator

[Office of the Registrar](#), Susan Granet, Associate Registrar, Degree Audit and NCAA Eligibility

Internships, [Bobbie Tidball](#), Assistant Director of Internships, CORE

Athletic Department, [Mike Zapolski](#), Athletic Director.