

# **Practice Pointer on U.S. Master's H-1Bs**

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AILA has been receiving reports of letters being prepared by unauthorized employees of some universities stating that the student has completed all requirements toward a master's degree, when in fact there are still examinations or papers to complete. If your client presents such a letter, be careful to check its authenticity and accuracy, as well as the authority of the official who issued the letter to do so. It may be wise to request verification from the office of the Dean or the equivalent, because the USCIS is likely to question a letter that comes from a lower-level employee of the university. Be mindful also that use of such documentation when the student has not completed the program may be considered fraud. Also, use of such a document may result in the loss of the client's chance at a slot in the U.S. master's graduate quota since the petition likely would be denied on the basis of ineligibility at the time of filing.