OPT STEM EXTENSION

The 12-month OPT work authorization may be extended for an additional 24 months for graduates of certain Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) programs. To be approved for the STEM extension, the employment must meet specific requirements, including having a training plan.

Before Submitting Your Application

Speak with your employer early about continuing your employment on the STEM extension. Your employer must be enrolled in the federal E-Verify program and commit to providing you a training program that directs relates to your STEM degree. You and your employer will be required to complete a training plan form to submit when applying for the STEM extension. Review important information at https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/stem-opt-hub.

Application Materials

- Completed I-765 form
- Completed G-1145 form
- Completed I-983 form
- Copy of I-94 record or most recent I-797
- 2 passport photos with name and I-94 number on back of each
- Copy of picture page of passport
- Copy of most recent visa
- Copies of all I-20s for your current degree
- Check or money order for $410 paid to the order of USCIS
- Copy of your current and any previous EAD cards
- Copy of most recent and STEM-degree diploma(s)
- Copy of your employment offer letter
- I-20 requesting STEM extension, signed by OISP and by you (not a copy)

Application Procedures

1. Complete the I-983 form with your employer and obtain their E-Verify number.
2. Gather all STEM extension application materials.
3. Submit copy of I-983 to OISP to request a new I-20 requesting STEM extension.
4. Submit all application materials, including original, signed I-983 and I-20 forms to the appropriate mailing address at https://www.uscis.gov/i-765-addresses.

USCIS may deny any OPT applications submitted more than 120 days before your OPT end date, more than 30 days after STEM extension I-20 was created, and/or at any point after your OPT end date.

After Submitting Your Application

You may continue to work for 180 days after your OPT end date if your STEM extension was properly filed within a timely manner. The standard OPT 90-day limit on unemployment will be extended an additional 30 days when your STEM extension is approved. You must report any name, address, employment, and training plan changes to OISP within 10 days of any changes. While on STEM OPT extension, you will be required to validate this information every 6 months and submit a self-evaluation of your training plan every year to OISP.