STEM OPT Extension Request

To qualify for the 24-month STEM OPT extension, you must:

- Have been granted OPT and currently be in a valid period of OPT;
- Have earned a bachelor’s, master’s, or doctoral degree from a school that is accredited by a U.S. Department of Education-recognized accrediting agency and is certified by the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) at the time you submit your STEM OPT extension application.
  - **Previously obtained STEM degrees:** If you are an F-1 student participating in a 12-month period of post-completion OPT based on a non-STEM degree, you may be eligible to use a previous STEM degree from a U.S. institution of higher education to apply for a STEM OPT extension. You must have received both degrees from currently accredited and SEVP-certified institutions and cannot have already received a STEM OPT extension based on this previous degree. The practical training opportunity also must be directly related to the previously obtained STEM degree.
    - For example: If you are currently participating in OPT based on a master’s degree in business administration but you previously received a bachelor’s degree in mathematics, you may be able to apply for a STEM OPT extension based on your bachelor’s degree as long as it is from an accredited U.S. college or university and the OPT employment opportunity is directly related to your bachelor’s degree in mathematics.
  - **STEM degrees you obtain in the future:** If you enroll in a new academic program in the future and earn another qualifying STEM degree at a higher educational level, you may be eligible for one additional 24-month STEM OPT extension.
    - For example: If you receive a 24-month STEM OPT extension based on your bachelor’s degree in engineering and you later earn a master’s degree in engineering, you may apply for an additional 24-month STEM OPT extension based on your master’s degree.
- Work for an employer who meets all the requirements. Please refer to: [https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/students-and-exchange-visitors/students-and-employment/stem-opt](https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/students-and-exchange-visitors/students-and-employment/stem-opt)
- Submit the [Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization](https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/students-and-exchange-visitors/students-and-employment/stem-opt), up to 90 days before your current OPT employment authorization expires, and within 60 days of the date your designated school official (DSO) enters the recommendation for OPT into your Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) record.
Required information:

Provide to International Student and Scholar Center:

- Completed and signed ISSC “STEM OPT Extension Request” Form
- Completed Training Plan and Form I-983

Provide to USCIS:

- Completed Form I-765 with
  - The correct application fee (check or money order payable to “Dept of Homeland Security”)
  - Your employer’s name as listed in E-Verify, and
  - Your employer’s E-Verify Company Identification Number or valid E-Verify Client Company Identification Number
- Form I-20, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status, endorsed by your DSO within the last 60 days (you keep the original and submit a copy)
- A copy of your STEM degree (Official Transcript or copy of diploma that shows degree level and program of study)
- Copy of Form I-94 (which can be obtained at https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov)
- A copy of your current EAD card (front and back)
- 2 passport-style photos. Lightly write your name and I-94 number on the back of each photo. (Review number 3. C on page 20 of the “Required Documentation” section of Instructions for Application for Employment Authorization)
- Completed G-1145 Form (optional; it signs you up for email/text message notification of your application’s arrival at USCIS)
- Note: the I-983 Training Plan does not need to be submitted to USCIS (unless USCIS requests a copy during STEM OPT extension processing). You should keep a copy of the plan for your own records
- Copy of your passport biographical page (and any renewal pages)
- Copy of visa page

*If you file your STEM OPT extension application on time and your OPT period expires while your extension application is pending, USCIS will automatically extend your employment authorization for 180 days. This automatic 180-day extension ceases once USCIS adjudicates your STEM OPT extension application.


Helpful tips for filling out Form I-765

Item #5 If you move while this application is being processed, use a stable, U.S. address. Mail from USCIS is not forwarded by the U.S. Postal Service.

Item #14 “No” (you should already have a SS number and card)

Item #21a This is the 11-digit number on your most recent I-94

Item #25 USCIS wants to know what your status was the last time you entered the U.S. For most students applying for OPT, it is “F-1”

Item #27 (c)(3)(C)

Item #28 Degree = your degree level and major; Employer’s name as listed in E-Verify; Employer’s E-Verify Company Identification Number, or a valid E-Verify Client Company Identification Number (E-Verify information can only be obtained from your employer)

Submit the STEM OPT application to USCIS within 90 days of your initial OPT expiration date.

USCIS Phoenix Lockbox

For U.S. Postal Service (USPS):

USCIS
P.O. Box 21281
Phoenix, AZ 85036

For FedEx, UPS, and DHL deliveries:

USCIS
Attn: NFB AOS
1820 E. Skyharbor Circle S
Suite 100
Phoenix, AZ 85034

*If you reside outside of Utah, please review the USCIS mailing instructions to find the correct Lockbox location.

While the STEM OPT I-765 is pending with USCIS, you may continue to work for up to 180 days.

You MUST read and follow the ISSC “STEM OPT Reporting Requirements” found on the ISSC website.
STEM OPT Extension Request

First Name: ___________________________ Last Name: ___________________________

WSU Email: ___________________________ Phone #: ___________________________

Job Title: ___________________________ Major: ___________________________

Current Physical Address: ____________________________________________________

By signing below, you are verifying that you understand and agree to the following:

1. You are currently on Optional Practical Training (OPT) and are employed or have been offered employment for practical training in your major field of study
2. Your current or future employer meets the required guidelines: 
   https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/students-and-exchange-visitors/students-and-employment/stem-opt
3. You have not been unemployed for more than 90 days while on Post-Completion OPT
4. You have read and will follow all reporting and validation rules and regulations found in the ISSC “STEM OPT Reporting Requirements” and also at:
   https://studyinthesates.dhs.gov/students-stem-opt-reporting-requirements
5. Your STEM OPT will end if you accrue a total of 150 days of unemployment (counted from the start of your initial Post-Completion OPT period), or if you transfer to another school
6. You are responsible for ensuring you know and follow all immigration-related rules, regulations, and requirements pertinent to your visa status and employment authorization

I affirm that I have read and understand the information included, and I agree to all rules and regulations set forth. Failure to comply with any rules and regulations may result in immediate termination of my immigration status.

____________________________________  ______________________
Printed Name (serves as signature for this form)  Date