



# STEM OPT extension

(Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics)

**International Students and Scholars Office**

309 Wes Watkins Center / 405-744-5459

# STEM OPT

## What is OPT STEM Extension?

- Allows for up to 24 additional months for STEM fields
- Start after 12-month post-completion OPT

- USCIS Webpage for STEM OPT

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-in-the-united-states/students-and-exchange-visitors/optional-practical-training-extension-for-stem-students-stem-opt>

# STEM OPT - Eligibility

- Must be in **active post-completion OPT status** with BS, MS, or PhD degree listed on DHS STEM Designated Degree Program List
- Must have **current** or **previous** degree in **eligible STEM major** from U.S. SEVP certified institution of higher education
- Check STEM eligible **CIP code**: <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/stemList2024.pdf>
- Must have **full-time** job offer for **paid employment** from **E-Verified employer** who is willing & able to meet **STEM OPT reporting requirements**
- STEM OPT is available for **two times** in lifetime
- Must not used STEM extension either at current or higher education level

# STEM OPT - Eligibility

## Employer – Employee Relationship

- Must have **bona-fide** employer-employee experience
- **No volunteer** positions
- Start up businesses & self-employment **do not** qualify for STEM-OPT extension option

# Previously Obtained STEM Degrees

- F1 student participating in post-completion OPT based on non-STEM degree can [use prior STEM-OPT qualified degree](#) for STEM OPT application
- If you have STEM-OPT eligible prior degree, on I-983, page 1, question “**Based on prior degree?**” check “yes” - if application is based on the prior degree
- Employment must be related to previous STEM degree
- Degree must be received **within 10 years**
- Student must send official transcript of prior degree to ISS to verify

# STEM OPT - Employment

## Unemployment Period

- Unemployment days – additional 60 cumulative days (including weekends & holidays)
- Total unemployment days accrues for  
Post-completion OPT (90) + STEM OPT extension (60) = **150 days**
- Must **report** termination of employment within 10 days of event
- Inquire to ISS for remaining unemployment days

# STEM OPT - Filing Parameters

- Must file STEM OPT within 90 days of current OPT expiration date but may **NOT** apply after current OPT expiration date
- Student and employer must complete and sign **Form I-983** (Training Plan for STEM OPT Students) and submit to ISS. The job offer must be full-time and paid job.
- Check official I-983 guidelines: <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/i983Instructions.pdf>
- Check I-983 Form overview: <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/stem-opt-hub/additional-resources/form-i-983-overview>
- USCIS must receive application **within 60 days of STEM OPT I-20 issuance**

A student who files application timely may continue employment while extension application is pending, until final decision is made, or for 180 days. Contact USCIS if processing time is over 180 days.

# Filing OPT By Mail

## List to apply for I-765 Application

- Application fee \$520 - Check or Money order
- 2 passport style photos
- **Completed I-765 – Item #27 (C) (3) (C)**
- Form G1145 - Electronic notification (Mail filers only)
- I-20 copy with STEM OPT Notation
  - \* OPT application must be filed within **60 days** of date DSO enters recommendation for STEM OPT in SEVIS
- Copies of all previous I-20s for OPT & CPT
- Copy of EADs
- Copy of I-94
- Colored copy of Valid page
- [Copy of official transcript or diploma](#) - showing completion of degree

## Filing location

Mail filers submit applications to USCIS Chicago Lockbox at:

**U.S. Postal Service (USPS):**  
USCIS  
PO Box 805373,  
Chicago, IL 60680

**FedEx, UPS, and DHL deliveries:**  
USCIS  
Attn: I-765 C03  
131 South Dearborn - 3rd Floor,  
Chicago, IL 60603-5517

# Filing OPT By Mail

Previous OPT, CPT & SEVIS ID# on I-765 Form - Page 7, Part 6

**Part 6. Additional Information**

If you need extra space to provide any additional information within this application, use the space below. If you need more space than what is provided, you may make copies of this page to complete and file with this application or attach a separate sheet of paper. Type or print your name and A-Number (if any) at the top of each sheet; indicate the **Page Number**, **Part Number**, and **Item Number** to which your answer refers; and sign and date each sheet.

1.a. Family Name (Last Name) Pete

1.b. Given Name (First Name) Pistol

1.c. Middle Name

2. A-Number (if any) ▶ A-

3.a. Page Number 3 3.b. Part Number 2 3.c. Item Number 26

3.d. Current SEVIS ID# N00012345678.

Master's degree;

Previous CPT:

Full-time 05/20/2017 - 08/15/2017

4.a. Page Number 3 4.b. Part Number 2 4.c. Item Number 26

4.d. Previous SEVIS ID# N00222333555.

Bachelor of Science

Previous CPT:

Full-time: 05/14/2015-08/15/2015

Previous OPT:

Post-Completion: 05/21/2016-08/20/2017

**SAMPLE**

# STEM OPT – Reporting requirement

In SEVP portal, STEM OPT **students are unable to add new employer or change start date of new employer** due to Form I-983 (Training plan) requirement

- For **new employment**
  - ⇒ Submit **new I-983 to ISS (DSO) within 10 days** of new employment start date
- For **employment end date changes**
  - ⇒ Submit **Final Evaluation on Student Progress** (page 5 of I-983) **to ISS (DSO) within 10 days** of job end date

STEM OPT **Report forms** are available on ISS website

<https://iss.okstate.edu/employment/stem-opt.html>

# STEM OPT – Reporting requirement

- **Changes in employment status**  
Termination / Resignation / Departure
- For **Material changes** on Form I-983
  - ⇒ **Submit updated I-983 to ISS (DSO) within 10 days** of any material changes :
    - Change in employer's EIN
    - Compensation and reduction of work hours
    - Significant decrease in hours per week
    - Changes in learning objectives or employer's commitment

STEM OPT **Report forms** are available on ISS website

<https://iss.okstate.edu/employment/stem-opt.html>

# STEM OPT – Reporting requirement

## Reporting on SEVP portal

- You will **not** be able to change read-only portions
- **Must** go through **ISS (DSO) to report new employment** with **completed & signed Form I-983**  
**ISS form:** STEM OPT Change of Employment Report (<https://iss.okstate.edu/employment/stem-opt.html>)  
**Form I-983:** <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/i983.pdf>
- You **cannot** edit employer information to work for another employer
- SEVIS will push updates into SEVP portal (within a few days)

# STEM OPT – Reporting requirement

## Regular Participation Reporting - Every 6 month

**OPT STEM REPORTING REMINDER FROM SEVP PORTAL**

SEVP Portal will provide you with reminders of when you are expected to report.

example of reminder email

**Your STEM OPT Reporting Deadlines**

While on STEM OPT, you must give your designated school official (DSO):

1. Validation reports to confirm that your address and employer information in SEVIS is correct. These are due every six months.
2. Two Evaluations of Student Progress (page 5 of the Form I-983). These are due:
  - a. 12 months after your STEM OPT starts and
  - b. 24 months after your STEM OPT starts.
3. Evaluation of Student Progress (page 5 of the Form I-983) when you stop working for a STEM employer before your STEM OPT authorization ends. These are due within 10 days after you stop working for the employer.

Your reporting deadlines:

Date	What is Due?
Feb 9 2019	Validation report for address and employer information
Aug 9 2019	Validation report for address and employer information Evaluation of Student Progress (page 5 of Form I-983)
Feb 9 2020	Validation report for address and employer information
Aug 9 2020	Validation report for address and employer information Evaluation of Student Progress (page 5 of Form I-983)

Missing these deadlines may affect the state of your SEVIS record.  
For more information, go to the STEM OPT Hub (<https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/stem-opt-hub>) pages on the Study in the States website.

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# STEM OPT – Reporting requirement

## Regular Participation Reporting - Every 6 month

- 6 & 18 month Participation Report

Student is responsible for **reporting** following information **to ISS**

- Legal name
- Current address
- Name and address of current employer
- Job title
- Supervisor information
- End date of employment

Submit **6 & 18 month participation report** to ISS through ISS website

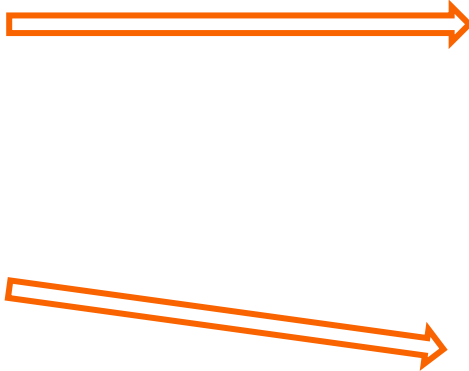
<https://iss.okstate.edu/employment/stem-opt.html>

# STEM OPT – Reporting requirement

## Regular Participation Reporting - Every 6 month

I-983 Form, Page 5

- **12 month STEM OPT report**  
Must report with completed & signed  
Evaluation on Student Progress
- **Final or 24 month STEM OPT report**  
Must report with completed & signed  
Final Evaluation on Student Progress
- Keep copy of the evaluations for your record



EVALUATION ON STUDENT PROGRESS	
Provide a self-evaluation of your performance, using the measures previously identified, in applying and acquiring new knowledge, skills, and competencies identified in the Training Plan for STEM OPT Students. Discuss accomplishments, successful projects, overall contributions, etc., during this review period. Address whether there are any modifications to the objectives and goals for projects, or new areas for skill and competency development.	
Range of Evaluation Dates: From (mm-dd-yyyy):	To (mm-dd-yyyy):
Signature of Student (Sign in ink): _____	
Printed Name of Student: _____	Date (mm-dd-yyyy): _____
Signature of Employer Official with Signatory Authority (Sign in ink): _____	
Printed Name of Employer Official with Signatory Authority: _____	Date (mm-dd-yyyy): _____

FINAL EVALUATION ON STUDENT PROGRESS	
Provide a self-evaluation of your performance, using the measures previously identified, in applying and acquiring new knowledge, skills, and competencies identified in the Training Plan for STEM OPT Students. Discuss accomplishments, successful projects, overall contributions, etc., during this review period. Address whether there are any modifications to the objectives and goals for projects, or new areas for skill and competency development.	
Range of Evaluation Dates: From (mm-dd-yyyy):	To (mm-dd-yyyy):
Signature of Student (Sign in ink): _____	
Printed Name of Student: _____	Date (mm-dd-yyyy): _____
Signature of Employer Official with Signatory Authority (Sign in ink): _____	
Printed Name of Employer Official with Signatory Authority: _____	Date (mm-dd-yyyy): _____

Submit **12 & Final or 24 month participation report** to ISS through ISS website

<https://iss.okstate.edu/employment/stem-opt.html>

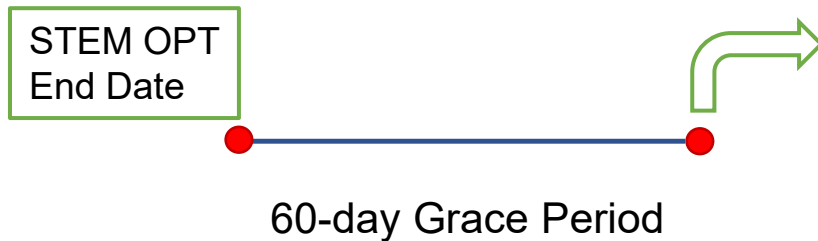
# STEM OPT – EAD delivery

- Use **your own physical address** as mailing address on I-765 form
- Do **NOT** move after filing I-765 application for STEM OPT  
If you must move, use ISS address as mailing address on I-765 **to avoid mailing complications** and inform ISS
- USCIS mailing is not forwarded to another address
- If EAD is not delivered successfully, it will be returned to USCIS
- If you must change your address after filing, contact  
USCIS National Customer Service number : **(800) 375-5283**

There is risk in changing your address after filed I-765 application

# After STEM OPT Completion

You have a **60-day grace period** following your STEM OPT end date



**You must choose one of following :**

- **Depart the U.S.** by end of 60 days
- **Change educational level** at OSU for different degree
- **Transfer out** to another university and start new program  
(no later than 5 months from STEM OPT end date)
- Complete **change of status**

# International Students & Scholars Office

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