International Student Services

Optional Practical Training: STEM Extension

F-1 students currently authorized for OPT employment based on completion of a Bachelor's, Master's or doctoral degree in a Science, Technology, Engineering or Math (STEM) field, as defined by DHS, may be eligible for a 24-month extension of OPT.

To be eligible for this extension, students applying for this benefit must:
- already be on valid OPT based on a STEM-eligible degree: studyinthestates.dhs.gov/eligible-cip-codesfor-the-stem-opt-extension
- have had fewer than 90 days of unemployment while on OPT
- be employed by, or have a job offer from, an *employer who is registered in the E-Verify employment verification system*
- There is a lifetime limit of **2** periods of 24-month STEM OPT.

See detailed information on the STEM Hub: studyinthestates.dhs.gov/stem-opt-hub

When to apply: Within 90 days of your current OPT expiration date. The new STEM extension EAD begins the day after the expiration of the previous OPT EAD and ends 24 months later, no matter when approved.

While the STEM OPT I-765 is pending with USCIS, you may continue to work for up to 180 days if the application is submitted before the EAD card expires.

OPT Application Process:
1. **Submit to Office of International Student Services:**
   Completed and signed "Request for 24 Month Extension of OPT"
   Completed Training Plan I-983 form (https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/form-i-983-overview)

2. **Submit directly to USCIS:** please check USCIS Web site for updated listing (www.uscis.gov/i-765)   Application Fee: $470 (debit or credit card)
   Form I-765 (www.uscis.gov/i-765)
   Soft copy of new OPT STEM extension I-20 (keep the original I-20)
   Soft copy of the front and back of your current OPT EAD card
   Soft copy of current I-94 (www.cbp.gov/i94)
   Soft copy of Passport biographical information page (and any renewal pages)
   Soft copy of past EAD cards (if applicable, front and back)
   2x2 (200x200px) color, U.S. passport-style photo
   Evidence that your degree meets the STEM degree/major requirements.
   Official transcript and diploma showing your degree level and program of study

Tips for completing Form I-765
- Applying for: STEM OPT Extension—use "renewal of my permission to accept employment" (c)(3)(C)
- The application name should match the OPT I-20 and passport names.
- Use an address that will be valid for the next 3 months. If the address is unknown or there is a chance of change, use the OISS address.
  APSU ISS
  P. O. Box 4664
  Clarksville, TN 37044
- Degree: write the degree level (i.e. Bachelor's, Master's, PhD, etc.)and earned degrree
  - Employer's name must be as listed in E-Verify
  - Get the employer's E-Verify number from the company's HR department
    - The e-verify number is not the EIN.

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24-Month Extension of OPT: Request Form

I. PERSONAL DATA: APSU A# _____

Name: _____

       (Last Name)   (First Name)   (Middle Name)

SEVIS ID: _____

Email: _____

Current U.S. Address: _____

       (Street name & number)   (Apt)

_____

       (City)   (State)   (Zip)

Current Phone Number: _____

       (Area code & current number)

Job Title: _____

Company Address: _____

_____

Company EIN: _____ E-Verify Number: _____

Supervisor First and Last Name: _____

Supervisor e-mail and phone number: _____

I have submitted form I-983 to APSU ISS. ____ Yes ____ No

I affirm that I understand the information provided on this request form and in supplemental information provided by APSU ISS, and agree to the regulatory requirements below:

1. You are currently on OPT and are employed or have been offered employment for practical training in your major field of study.
2. Your current or future employer is enrolled in E-Verify.
3. You have not been unemployed for more than 90 days while on OPT.
4. You will report address, employer, or other SEVIS information changes on the SEVP OPT Portal or via the web form to ISS within 10 days of the change.
5. You must **submit an I-983 form to update your employment information** as soon as a material change occurs and within 10 days of each 12-month evaluation.
6. You will "check-in" with APSU (via online web form or email to iss@apsu.edu) every six months during the STEM OPT extension from the start date listed on your new OPT card.
7. Your OPT will end if you accrue 150 days of unemployment (counted from the start of your total OPT period) or start a new program of study.

_____   _____

Signature   Date

_____

Printed Name