

24 Month OPT Extension Guidelines & Responsibilities:

Check this [list](#) to see if your degree and major qualifies

- **OPT STEM Extension Period**

The employment authorization period for the STEM OPT extension begins the day after the expiration of the initial OPT employment authorization and ends 24 months later. Students are allowed to apply for a STEM OPT extension twice in their F-1 academic career (speak to your DSO to determine eligibility). STEM OPT extension is based on a paid position of at least twenty (20) hours per week or more. No unpaid or volunteer positions are allowed. Students must work for an E-verified employer to remain eligible for the STEM OPT extension.

- **Guidelines:**

1. Submit your STEM Extension to CIE as early as 90 days prior to the end of your current OPT expiration date on your EAD. Apply by scanning and sending the application to your immigration specialist.
2. CIE will process your application and recommend you for the STEM OPT Extension by sending you a new I-20 with the recommendation on Page 2. You must have this I-20 recommendation to submit the I-765. You are responsible for completing the I-765 application to USCIS no later than 60 days from the date that your new STEM OPT I-20 was created, and prior to the expiration on your EAD card.

- **Student Responsibilities:**

1. Any change must be reported to the CIE office within 10 days. This includes:
 - Your current home address, phone number(s) and email address(es) AND
 - Your employer's company name, address, phone number, AND
 - Your supervisor's name, your employment start date for your current employer, AND
 - You must report termination of your employment to CIE within 10 days of the date when you are no longer employed.
 - Required to submit an updated Form I-983 (link included on next page) with the final evaluation portion completed, every time you end employment, to the CIE office.
 - You are required to report any new employment, with new employer information to CIE within 10 days of the change.
 - Required to submit a new Form I-983 (link included on next page) to the CIE office.
 - You are required to report any change in visa status to the CIE office.
2. While on STEM OPT Extension, you must validate the following with the CIE every six (6) months:
 - Your current home address, phone number(s) and email address(es) AND
 - Your employer's company name, address, phone number, AND
 - Your supervisor's name, as well as, your employment start date for your current employer.
3. You are required to complete first "Evaluation of Student Progress" (Page 5 of the Form I-983) within 10 days of your 12 month anniversary of the listed STEM OPT start date and submit it to the CIE office. The "Final Evaluation of Student Progress" (Page 5 of the Form I-983) must be submitted within 10 days of the 24 month mark of your STEM OPT start date to the CIE office.
4. You may not accrue a total of more than 150 days of unemployment during the 36 month period of OPT and the STEM extension combined (you can be unemployed a maximum of 90 days during your initial OPT).

Steps to Apply

Submit Required Documents to CIE for OPT Extension:

1. Completed I-765 form - <https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/forms/i-765.pdf>
(Click the link to type into fillable form)
 - Your employer must enter the information from E-Verify.
2. Completed I-983 form - <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/i983.pdf>
(Click the link access form) to be completed by both you and your current employer. Guidance for completing this form is available at the following [link](#).
3. Supporting evidence you need to submit with the I-765:
 - Copy of current EAD (And any other previously obtained EADs)– front & back
 - Copy of current I-94 card (From your most recent entry into the U.S.)
 - Copy of current Passport – biographic information page including expiration date
 - Copy of Visa—expired or unexpired, visa used the last time you entered the U.S.
 - Copy of current I-20 stating the STEM OPT recommendation
 - Proof of STEM degree in the form of an official transcript, unofficial transcript or diploma.
This degree can either be:
 - A STEM degree on which your original OPT application was based

OR

 - A STEM degree that you earned within the last 10 years and you have not yet benefited from a STEM Extension. If you are using a previous degree, complete the form at the following link:
<https://cie.siu.edu/common/documents/current-cie-docs/previous-stem-degree-information.pdf>

Please be advised, that unpaid internships and volunteer work will not be accepted by the Department of Homeland Security as approved employment for STEM OPT.



STEM Extension Employment Information Form

STUDENT INFORMATION

SIUC STUDENT ID: _____ SEVIS ID: _____

H1b Receipt Number (if applicable): _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Current Address Line 1: _____

Current Address Line 2: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Degree Earned: _____ Graduation Date: _____

EMPLOYER INFORMATION

Employer Name: _____

Employer's E-Verify ID: _____ EIN# (Employer Identification Number): _____

Address Line 1: _____

Address Line 2: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Your Job Title/Position: _____

Supervisor's Name: _____

Supervisor's Email Address: _____

Supervisor's Phone Number: _____ Start date with this employer: _____

Print Name: _____

Student Signature: _____ Today's Date: _____