

F-1 students awarded a degree in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math (STEM) are eligible to apply for a 24-month extension of post-OPT. Students must complete [STEM OPT Onboarding](#) BEFORE submitting this form.

STUDENT INFORMATION

SEVIS ID#: _____ Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

US Street Address: _____ Apt/Unit #: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Other Phone: _____ Email: _____

STEM Degree Level: Undergraduate Graduate STEM Degree Program of Study: _____

Name of school where degree was earned (**only if not earned at Florida Poly**): _____

(you must provide copy of unofficial transcript to ISS)

Name of Employer: _____ Employment Type: Full-Time Part-Time

Job Title: _____ Start Date: _____ End Date: _____

How does the job relate to your course of study (required): _____

STEM OPT CHECKLIST

1. Complete [STEM OPT Onboarding](#).
2. Complete and submit **STEM OPT I-20 Request** (this form) to ISS to obtain I-20 with DSO recommendation.
3. Submit [I-983 Training Plan](#) completed and signed by both you and your employer to ISS with this request.
 - a. See the [I-983 Training Plan Guide](#) for help with completing this form.
4. File the [online Form I-765 Application for Employment Authorization](#) with USCIS.
 - a. Ensure you have saved copies of the following documents to be uploaded to your application:
 - i. Copy of STEM OPT I-20 with DSO recommendation.
 - ii. Copy of all previous I-20s (must be signed by you and the DSO).
 - iii. Copy of your I-94.
 - iv. Copy of post-OPT EAD Card (if you do not have it, then a copy of your passport and F-1 visa).
 - v. Copy of an unofficial transcript for your STEM degree.
 - vi. If application is based on a "previously" earned STEM Degree (from a different school other than Florida Poly); you must upload the institution's accreditation (contact school's Registrar's Office).
 - vii. Two copies of color photographs taken within 30 days of filing the application – refer to the USCIS specifications before filing.
 - b. See the [I-765 Online Application Steps](#) to assist with filing your online application with USCIS.

STEM Optional Practical Training (STEM OPT) Extension Request

STEP 1: SUBMIT COMPLETED I-983 TRAINING PLAN

Complete STEM OPT Onboarding then submit your [I-983 Training Plan](#), completed by both you and your employer.

- Please see the [STEM OPT Training Plan Guide](#) to assist with completing your Training Plan.

STEP 2: REVIEW & SIGN OPT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Review the following STEM OPT requirements and regulations the sign to acknowledge your understanding.

1. I have completed STEM OPT Onboarding and understand the criteria for participating in STEM OPT.
2. I understand I cannot submit my application to USCIS more than 90 days prior to the end date of post-OPT and no later than the last day of the post-completion OPT end date on the EAD.
3. I understand that after receiving my STEM OPT I-20 that I must submit my I-765 application with USCIS no later than 30 days before the date the form was issued (see date DSO signed the I-20).
4. I understand that if I do not adhere to the application deadlines that USCIS will deny my I-765 application.
5. I understand that if I file my STEM OPT extension application on time and my OPT period expires while my extension application is pending, USCIS will automatically extend my employment authorization for 180 days, and that this extension ceases once USCIS adjudicates my STEM OPT extension application.
6. I understand my F-1 status is depending on employment for STEM OPT, and that I must be working at least 20 hours per week in a job that is paid and related to my program of stud and that self-employment is not permitted.
7. I understand I may not accrue an aggregate of more than the following number of days of unemployment:
 - a. Post-Completion OPT: 90 Days
 - b. STEM Extension: 150 Days (remainder of unemployment from Post-Completion OPT + 60 additional days)
8. I understand that engaging in full-time study while on OPT is a violation of my F-1 status, and that I must be issued a Change of Level I-20 before I can begin studying in a new program, which will terminate my OPT.
9. I am required to report the following to ISS and SEVP Portal within 10 days of any change:
 - a. Change of my legal name (cannot be updated in the SEVP Portal).
 - b. Change of my e-mail address or phone number.
 - c. Change of my residential and/or mailing address.
 - d. New employment, even if I am working for multiple employers (cannot update in the SEVP Portal on STEM).
 - e. Change of the name and/or address of my employer (cannot update in the SEVP Portal on STEM).
 - f. Any interruption of employment (cannot update in the SEVP Portal on STEM).
10. I will submit a new I-983 Training Plan to ISS within 10 days:
 - a. If I begin a new practical training opportunity with a new employer which includes all page of the I-983 and a Final Evaluation completed and signed (page 5) from my original employer.

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- b. Any time there is a "material change" in the terms and conditions of my original I-983
11. I am required to validate my address, contact, and employment information with ISS every 6 months from the start of my extension; if I do not, my F-1 status could be terminated.
- a. I will complete the STEM OPT Report Form every 6 months and the required I-983 evaluations at 12-months (top of page 5) and at 24- months (bottom of page 5) to ISS before my reporting due date.
12. I understand that the role of ISS is to advise students and not to provide advice to employers.
- a. Employers that have concerns about their responsibilities regarding STEM OPT extensions can review:
 - i. [OPT Employer Guide](#)
 - ii. [What Employers Should Know](#)
13. I am required to notify ISS if I determine I no longer wish to complete OPT and want to end my work authorization early. But submitting the F-1 Departure Form.

I understand that failure to follow these requirements and all immigration regulations for studying or working in the US can result in the termination of my F-1 status and loss of employment eligibility.

Student Signature and Date: _____