



# APPLYING FOR AND MAINTAINING STATUS ON THE 24-MONTH STEM OPT EXTENSION

SERVICES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS & SCHOLARS  
GLOBAL AFFAIRS

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

[SISS WEB PAGE](#) FOR THE 24-MONTH STEM OPT EXTENSION

**UCDAVIS**

# Eligibility for applying the 24-Month STEM OPT Extension

**In order for you to be eligible for the 24-month STEM OPT Extension you must:**

- Be on an approved period of OPT
- Have a paid job offer or paid employment with an employer enrolled in [E-Verify](#)
- Demonstrate that the job is directly related to your STEM field
- Have less than 90 days of unemployment at the time of filing your application with USCIS (see [unemployment calculator](#))
- Prepare and sign the Training Plan [Form I-983](#)
- Ensure that USCIS receives your application by your customized deadline as determined by the [24-Month STEM OPT Extension Calculator and Request Form](#)
- Submit your STEM request within 60 days of the I-20 issuance with your SISS immigration advisor's recommendation **on or before** your OPT expires
- If your most recent degree is not the STEM degree you will base your extension on, contact SISS for additional instructions.

# Helpful Hints for Completing the I-983 form

- Name of School Recommending STEM OPT: University of California, Davis
- SEVIS School Code of School Recommending STEM OPT: SFR214F00614000
- Designated School Official (DSO) is your official SISS immigration advisor. If you are not sure who your official advisor is, look here: [http://siss.ucdavis.edu/about\\_us/staff.html](http://siss.ucdavis.edu/about_us/staff.html)
- Student SEVIS ID: Look at the top of your I-20
- STEM OPT Requested Period: Use the [24-month STEM OPT Extension Calculator](#) to find your customized dates.
- To find your CIP code, look on your I-20. If you have no CIP code, contact SISS.
- Enter the academic level your STEM is based on (i.e. Bachelors, Masters, Doctorate)
- Answer NO to the question, “Based on Prior Degree?”
- The [A number](#) on your EAD is the USCIS # found in the middle of your EAD card
- Your employer will have to include the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Code, which can be found here: <http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/sssd/naics/naicsrch?chart=2012>
- You and your employer must complete a training plan which will be outlined in Section 5 of the I-983 form

*For a tutorial on how to fill out the form, review the I-983 instructions here: <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/form-i-983-overview> (links in the tutorial are not accessible; use links on this page).*

# SISS Application Overview

## Step 1: Submit Your 24-month STEM OPT Extension request to SISS which includes:

- Completed [24-month STEM OPT Extension Calculator and Request Form](#)
- Completed form [I-983](#)
- Copy of completed [I-765](#) with Eligibility Category (c)(3)(C) and your signature surrounded with white space
- Copy of current EAD
- [I-94](#) record showing F-1 status
- Update your employment with SISS at <https://iglobal.ucdavis.edu> using the Limited Services option to log on.

\*Allow 10 business days to process the 24-month STEM OPT extension I-20

# USCIS Packet Overview

**Step 2: Once you have received your 24-month STEM OPT extension I-20 you will need to submit the following to USCIS:**

- a) [I-765](#)
- b) Copy of most current EAD card
- c) Copy of your most recent [I-94](#) record showing F-1 status
- d) Optional: [G-1145](#) form to receive text messages regarding the status of your application
- e) Evidence of degree completion such as a copy of diploma or unofficial transcript (required if based on a prior degree, strongly recommended by USCIS otherwise)
- f) Copy of your new I-20 with the additional 24-month STEM OPT recommendation
- g) Copy of the I-20 showing OPT
- h) Copy of your passport biographical page (with photo and expiration date)
- i) Check or money order for \$380 made out to U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- j) Passport size photos taken in the last 30 days: Refer to [Department of State Photo Tool](#) to check that your photos meet the standard

Mail your complete application by your customized deadline via **express mail** (Federal Express, etc.) to :

USCIS

Attn: AOS

1820 E. Skyharbor Circle S

Suite 100

Phoenix, AZ 85034

**Services for International Students & Scholars (SISS)**

# Maintaining Status on STEM

**Once you are approved for the additional 24 months you will need to do the following to maintain your STEM OPT status:**

- a) Work at least 20 hours of **paid employment** directly related to your STEM major.
- b) Not exceed 150 days of unemployment.
- c) Update SISS via OPT STEM Reporting within 10 days of any the following changes :
  - i. Change in residential address.
  - ii. Reduction in compensation for employment (only if is not a result of decrease in hours \*).
  - iii. Employer name and address\*.
  - iv. Change of status or transfer out of F-1 program.
  - v. Termination of employment.
  - vi. Complete required 6 month STEM validation report via STEM OPT Reporting even if there have been no changes through <https://iglobal.ucdavis.edu> using the Limited Services option to log on.
  - vii. Complete STEM final assessment self- evaluation and submit to SISS before STEM expiration

\* Requires you and your employer to complete a new [I-983](#)

# Material Changes and the Form I-983

**If any of the following information changes you must complete a new Form I-983 with your employer and submit it to SISS:**

- a) Employer name and address
- b) Decrease in your compensation (not as a result in reduction of hours worked)
- c) Reduction in hours worked to less than 20 hours a week
- d) Employer's EIN

*For more information on the Form I-983 and STEM policies refer to Study in the States [STEM OPT Hub](#)*

## Contact SISS

If you have any questions about your STEM application/process, please feel free to contact SISS.

**Web** <http://siss.ucdavis.edu/students/employment/STEM.html>

**Call** SISS directly at 530-752-0864 ext. 0 to make an appointment with your International Student Advisor.

**Email** [siss@ucdavis.edu](mailto:siss@ucdavis.edu) with any questions you may have.

**Stop by** during SISS drop-in hours  
Mondays from 1:00-3:45PM  
Thursdays from 1:00-3:45PM