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
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
- 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).
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
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

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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 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