24 MONTH STEM OPT EXTENSION
Eligibility

- Currently on approved OPT
- Have a paid job offer or paid job at an E-Verified company
- Have less than 90 unemployment days when applying
- Evidence that job is related to your STEM field
Applying the 24-Month STEM OPT Extension: Key Issues

Timing

• Request STEM Extension I-20 from SISS 100 days (or less) before end of your OPT
• Submit to USCIS no more than 90 days before the end of your OPT (application must arrive at USCIS before last day of your OPT)
• Submit to USCIS within 60 days* of your advisor’s signature date on the STEM Extension I-20 (this is called the issue date on page 1 of your I-20)

*If USCIS receives your application more than 60 days after the issue date on your I-20, USCIS will deny your STEM application. Please discuss with your SISS advisor if you have questions.
Applying the 24-Month STEM OPT Extension: Key Issues

Required Documents

- I-983 Training Plan
- I-765 Application
- I-94
- Post Completion OPT I-20s (copies)
- Passport Face Page
- Evidence if degree completion
- Signed STEM I-20
Company Requirements

- Must be E-Verified
- Must sign training plan (I-983)
Completing the I-983 form

The best way to learn about how to fill out the I-983 is to follow the tutorial

Direct Link: https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/assets/stem-opt-hub/story.html

See next page for UC Davis-specific information
Completing the I-983 form

Helpful Hints for UC Davis Information

• 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. Find your advisor here

• 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.
SISS STEM Extension I-20 Request Process

Step 1: Log in to iGlobal using “Limited Services”
Step 2a: Update your CURRENT OPT employment if necessary
Step 2b: Submit Your 24-month STEM OPT Extension request
Step 2b: Submission via iGlobal includes uploading:

1. Completed **24-month STEM OPT Extension Calculator**

![24-month STEM OPT Extension Calculator](image)

- **Eligibility for the 24-month STEM OPT Extension**
  - Must be based on a STEM eligible degree (Bachelor’s, Master’s, or Doctoral)
  - Must be eligible to complete an I-983 with an E-verify employer
  - Must submit application to USCIS within 90 days of OPT ending
  - Must have maintained status during OPT
  - Limited to two total STEM Extensions per student regardless of degrees earned

- **1. Enter the CIP code listed on your I-20 (i.e. 01.1103)**
  - Code Drop Down
  - Any CIP code starting with 14, 26, 27 or 40 is eligible and will be found with 0001

- **2. Enter the OPT end date as listed on the EAD card**
  - mm/dd/yyyy

- **3. Submit a STEM OPT request to SISS as early as**
  - Instructions
  - OPT STEM Request period (for I-983)

- **4. USCIS will accept your application**
  - USCIS must receive your new I-20 within 60 days of the recommendation
  - Continue to work while STEM is processed if filed within USCIS dates above
  - DMV license renewal delays possible if applying late
  - Items to mail to USCIS [Step 2]
  - More information about the STEM Rules

- **5. Regulatory Requirement to Report**
  - Mark your calendar for your minimum required reporting dates.
    - 6 month reporting update due
    - 12 month reporting & Evaluation on Student Progress (I-983) due
    - 18 month reporting update due
    - 24 month Final Evaluation on Student Progress (I-983) due
  - Additional reporting required within 5-10 days of a change
    - Home address changes
    - Updated I-983 for material changes to employment
    - Final Evaluation on Student Progress (I-983) upon ending any employment
    - New I-983 due for any new employer (E-verified, 20+ hours/week)
Step 2b: Submission via iGlobal includes uploading:

2. Completed form I-983.
Fill out the form using the detailed instructions in iGlobal at F-1 Practical Training, Optional Practical Training.

Our STEM OPT webpage contains details on the order in which documents should be submitted to USCIS.
SISS STEM Extension I-20 Request Process

Step 2b: Submission via iGlobal includes uploading:

4. Copy of current EAD.
5. I-94 record showing F-1 status.

Allow 2 weeks for SISS processing.
Step 3: Once you have received your 24-month STEM OPT extension I-20 you will need to submit the following to USCIS:

1. Check or money order payable to U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Check the current filing fee before submitting. (NOTE: Do NOT include payment for the $85 biometric services fee)

2. Optional (highly recommended): Form G-1145 to receive an e-mail and/or a text message that your application has been accepted and the receipt number you will use to track your case. You must submit one G-1145 for an email receipt and another for a text receipt.

3. Letter declaring that any field left blank in the I-765 means it does not apply (SISS provides this).

4. Original I-765 application form

5. Form I-94, Arrival-Departure Record

6. A copy of your Post-Completion OPT EAD (front and back)

7. Photocopy of passport biographical information, showing passport expiration date

8. Photocopy of the new I-20 with the STEM OPT recommendation (all pages)

9. 2 photos (taken within the past 30 days, white background, 2” x 2”)

**Fees may change, check for the most updated before filing**
STEM OPT Photo Requirements

• All photos must be of only the applicant and must be identical.

• All photos must meet the specifications for full frontal/passport photos and must be no more than 30 days old when an application is filed.

• Print your full name, birthdate and SEVIS number (10-digit number beginning with N in the top left corner of your I-20) in pencil on the back of each photo.
What is a Request for Evidence (RFE)?

- When USCIS needs clarification or more documentation about your OPT application
- Sent to the address you provide to USCIS in the I-765 application form
- Usually a blue cover sheet with a response deadline
- Usually an additional sheet(s) with a list of information to provide

What to do if you get an RFE?

- Schedule an appointment with your SISS Advisor immediately
- Prepare all documents requested – even if you already submitted them with the original request
- Make photocopies of all documents before sending
- Review packet before mailing
- Send by the deadline indicated on the cover sheet

RFEs are serious

Not submitting what is requested in a timely manner may lead to an OPT denial
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, which includes unemployment days used during post completion OPT.

You can check your unemployment by using the unemployment calculator.
You MUST:

Update SISS via iGlobal within 10 days of any of the following changes:

i. Reduction in compensation for employment (only if it is not a result of decrease in hours*).
ii. Employer name and address*.
iii. Change of status or transfer out of F-1 program.
iv. Termination of employment.
v. Change in residential address.

You must also:

i. Complete required 6 month STEM validation report via STEM OPT Reporting at 6, 12, 18, and 24 months even if there have been no changes.
ii. Complete STEM final assessment self-evaluation and submit to SISS before STEM expiration.

*Requires you and your employer to complete a new I-983
Maintaining Status on STEM

**Note:**

The dates by which you must submit the 6, 12, 18 and 24 (end) month reports can be found on your 24-month STEM OPT Extension Calculator.

1. Complete required 6 month STEM validation report via STEM OPT Reporting at 6, 12, 18, and 24 months even if there have been no changes.
2. Complete STEM final assessment self-evaluation and submit to SISS before STEM expiration.

---


- Mark your calendar now for your minimum required reporting dates.
- 6 month reporting update due
- 12 month reporting & Evaluation on Student Progress (I-983) due
- 18 month reporting update due
- 24 month Final Evaluation on Student Progress (I-983) due

**Additional reporting required within 5-10 days of a change:**
- Home address changes
- Updated I-983 for material changes to employment
- Final Evaluation on Student Progress (I-983) upon ending any employment
- New I-983 due for any new employer (E-verified, 20+ hours/week)
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
If you have any questions about your STEM application/process, please feel free to contact your SISS International Student Advisor.

Or see more information about STEM on our website

Call SISS directly at 530-752-0864 ext. 0 to make an appointment.

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