

24-Month STEM OPT Extension Information

You can apply for the 24-month STEM OPT extension no sooner than 90 days prior to your current OPT end date and no later than the day your current EAD card expires. As long as your application is received by USCIS by your current EAD end date, you will be allowed to remain in the U.S. and continue employment for 180 days or until a decision is made on your application.

Students may not apply for STEM OPT extensions during the 60-day grace period following an initial (usually 12-month) period of post-completion OPT.

Before applying to USCIS for a STEM OPT extension, students must complete and submit the [Form I-983](#) to their DSO. The student and their prospective employer must work together to complete this form. STEM OPT students and their employers are subject to the terms of the 24-month STEM OPT extension regulations and [Form I-983 instructions](#), effective as of the start date requested for STEM OPT, as indicated on the form. Students are responsible for facilitating the completion of this form, submitting it with their STEM OPT application and returning it to their DSO.

STEM OPT Extension Application Checklist

1. Completed [Form I-983](#)
2. Completed STEM OPT extension request form
3. Form [I-765](#) completed and signed with the following:
 - #3 on I-765: Student's Mailing address
 - #16 on I-765: (C) (3) (c)
 - #17 on I-765: List your degree and degree code in parentheses: this can be found on the first page of your I-20 under 'Major 1' (Example: Psychology, General 42.0101), employer's name as listed on E-verify, and the employer's E-verify Company Identification Number or valid E-verify Client Company Identification Number.
 - Check or money order of \$410 payable to U.S. Department of Homeland Security
4. Copies of all previous I-20s from newest to oldest
5. Copies of the biographical page of your passport with an expiration date at least 6 months in the future
6. Copy of your most recent F-1 visa stamp
7. Copy of most recent I-94 card
8. Copy of your current EAD card and any previous EAD cards (front and back).
9. Copy of your most recent degree that shows: degree name, date awarded, and field of study. This can be a copy of your **diploma**, **official transcript** or an **unofficial transcript**. The field of study shown must be on the approved list of STEM fields of study.
10. Two passport-style photos (like you submitted for your original OPT application) with your name, date of birth (dd/mm/yr) and SEVIS number written on the back of both photos

All these documents are sent with a copy of your new I-20, indicating the STEM OPT extension recommendation on page 3 and a cover letter from GEO.

For U.S. Postal Service (USPS):

USCIS
P.O. Box 21281
Phoenix, AZ 85036

For FedEx, UPS, and DHL deliveries:

USCIS
Attn: AOS
1820 E. Skyharbor Circle S
Suite 100
Phoenix, AZ 85034