

Eligibility

In order to be eligible for an OPT STEM Extension, a student must meet the requirements listed below. If you are unsure of any item, the GEC can provide you with current information. Once approved, the extension will begin the day after the original Post-Completion OPT expires, and will extend 17 months from that date. Students may work up to 180 days while the application is pending.

REQUIREMENTS

- Student is currently in Active status with no pending status corrections
- Employer must be registered with E-Verify
- Employer must agree to report to DSO when the student is terminated or leaves employment
- Student's current OPT authorization has not expired
- Student's most recent major must be on the Department of Homeland Security's list of STEM approved majors at <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/stemlist.htm>
- Student has not previously been granted a 17-month STEM extension for any degree level

USCIS OPT STEM Extension Application Checklist:

(Items to be submitted to United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS))

Once you receive your updated I-20 reflecting our support of your petition to file for OPT STEM Extension, it is your responsibility to complete the required application and submit it in a timely manner to USCIS. Your application must be received by USCIS within **30 days** of the date that appears in item 10 on page 1 of the OPT STEM Extension I-20.

Assemble application materials in the order indicated below. Paperclip check and passport photos on top.

- Form G-1145:** Typed, not handwritten (www.uscis.gov/files/form/g-1145.pdf)
- Original, signed Form I-765:** Typed, not handwritten (<http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/i-765.pdf>)
 - o At top, mark: Renewal of my permission to accept employment
 - o Item 11: Have you ever received an EAD card before? If yes, provide info for all previous EAD cards:
 - Which USCIS Office: *California, Texas, Vermont or Nebraska Service Center*
 - Dates: *Dates of EAD card validity*
 - Results: *Granted*
 - o Item 16: Eligibility category is (c)(3)(C) {small c, number 3, capital C}
 - o Item 17: Degree is listed in item 5 on page 1 of I-20
 - o Signature: Use black ink to sign between horizontal lines. Signature must not touch either line.
- Photocopy** of OPT STEM Extension I-20 pages 1 and 3, signed at Line 11 with name, signature and date
- Printout** of I-94 Arrival/Departure form (www.cbp.gov/I94)
- Photocopy** of passport page with photo, passport number, and expiration date (must be valid for at least 6 months prior to application date)
- Photocopy** of previously issued EAD card and OPT I-20s
- \$380.00 money order payable to:** U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- Two (2) U.S. style passport photos:** Write your name and I-94 number on the **back** of each photo
 - o **Do not** use photos from your home country
 - o Passport photos must be 2"x2" with proper facial dimensions of U.S. style passport photos
 - o See passport photo guidelines on the OPT online workshop for examples
- Verification of graduation from SUU:** Provide an official or unofficial SUU transcript; or a copy of your SUU diploma showing degree earned and program of study
- Statement from employer:** on employer letterhead explaining how current job/position relates to your STEM major: Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics

MAILING INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Make copies of the entire application for your records and mail by certified U.S. mail. Application must be received by USCIS within **30 days** of the date that appears on page 1 at item 10 (reflected on the signature line of your I-20).
2. Mail application to the USCIS Lockbox for the state you currently live in (see below).



Office of International Affairs
International Student & Scholar Services
351 W University Blvd. Cedar City, UT 84720
Phone: (435) 586-1995
www.suu.edu/iss

STEM Extension Post-Completion Optional Practical Training (OPT) Application

If you currently live in:

Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming, Guam, or the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands.

Mail your application to:

For U.S. Postal Service (USPS) Deliveries:

USCIS
P.O. Box 21281
Phoenix, AZ 85036

For Express Mail and Courier Deliveries:

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

If you currently live in:

Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, U.S. Virgin Islands, or West Virginia.

Mail your application to:

For U.S. Postal Service (USPS) Deliveries:

USCIS
P.O. Box 660867
Dallas, TX 75266

For Express Mail and Courier Deliveries:

USCIS, Attn: AOS
2501 S. State Hwy. 121 Business, Suite 400
Lewisville, TX 75067

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS WHILE ON OPT STEM EXTENSION

All students on OPT are required to report to SUU International Student Services within 10 days of any change of:

STEM Extension Post-Completion Optional Practical Training (OPT) Application

- Legal name
- Residential or mailing address
- Employer name
- Employer address
- Loss of employment
- Any interruption of employment
- Change in degree level
- Transfer to another school

All updates can be done online through the forms available at www.suu.edu/iss

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Students who file the STEM Extension application in a timely manner will be able to continue employment until a final decision is made by USCIS or for 180 days, whichever is earlier.
- SUU International Student Services advises students not to travel until the STEM Extension application is approved and a new EAD card has been received.

