
DEFINITION

- STEM Extension OPT is off-campus work authorization in a student's field of study
- STEM Extension is an additional 24-months of work authorization for the period immediately following the completion of Post-Completion OPT authorization

APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Must have earned a qualifying STEM degree: [STEM Designated Degree Program List](#)
- Must currently be utilizing Post-Completion OPT authorization
- Must have a job offer from an employer within the E-Verify system
- Must complete the [Form I-983 Training Plan](#) with employer prior to applying for the extension

HOW TO APPLY

- Meet with your International Student Advisor to review the following documents:
 - Completed USCIS Form I-983, *Training Plan for STEM OPT Students*
 - Completed [USCIS Form I-765](#), *Application for Employment Authorization*
 - Two U.S. passport-style photos with your I-94 number and full name printed lightly in pencil on the back
 - Copy of electronic I-94 printed from: <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94/#/home>
 - Personal check or U.S. money order for \$410 payable to the **Department of Homeland Security**
 - Photocopy of Passport Biography Page (Can be made in OIP)
 - Photocopy of F-1 Visa (Can be made in OIP)
 - Photocopy of Change of Status I-797A Notice of Action (Approval Notice) if you changed status to F-1
 - Photocopy of previous EAD cards (front and back)
 - Official transcript or copy of diploma showing acquired qualifying STEM degree
 - Job offer letter/Contract
- Office of Global Pathways will issue a new I-20 with a STEM Extension recommendation
- Mail all application materials, including a copy of the new I-20, to USCIS

WHEN TO APPLY AND PROCESSING TIMES

Apply for the OPT STEM Extension **90 days before** your current EAD expiration date

- USCIS application processing is typically up to 90 days, though it can be longer
- USCIS will mail an application receipt within 2-3 weeks of receiving the application
- Students may legally work for 180 days between the expiration of the Post-Completion EAD and the start of the STEM Extension period without a new EAD card, provided the student has a valid application receipt document; however, the student should contact the Office of International programs if the EAD has not arrived within 90 days of the dated receipt of application notice