F-1 students approved for post-completion Optional Practical Training (OPT) based on a bachelor’s, master or Doctorate degree in a certain STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) field may be eligible for the new 24-month STEM extension.

**Additional Resources**
- [Study in the States STEM Hub](#)

**Required documents for OPT Extension I-20**
You will need to submit the following documents to the International Office for initial processing of your OPT Stem Extension I-20.
- Statement of Responsibility (Page 3)
- **Form I-983**, Training Plan for STEM OPT Students, Leave Pages 5 blank these are for annual reviews ([Instructions on how to complete](#))

**Application Packet Checklist to USCIS - Please put in the following order from top to bottom**
- Completed Form I-765 signed with original signature -Staple the following to the top of your packet:
  - Check or money order for $410 Application Fee made payable to “U.S. Department of Homeland Security”: Write “USCIS I-765” in the memo/for line of check or money order.
  - 2 passport-style photos on white background taken within 30 days of application
- Copy of OPT Extension I-20 with proper signatures from PDSO/ DSO and student
- Copy of your diploma in one of the STEM fields on the [DHS STEM-designated program list](#)
- Copies of the following:
  - Passport identity page including expiration date
  - Visa
  - I-94 entry/departure record
  - OPT I-20 forms (page 1 and 3) issued to you during the initial OPT period
  - Current OPT EAD
  - Your name and I-94 number must be printed in pencil or felt pen on the back of the photos. For an example photo, see [https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/general/photos/photo-page.html](https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/general/photos/photo-page.html)
- Form G-1145, E-Notification of Application/Petition Acceptance (OPTIONAL)

**Processing**
If you are approved for the extension, your application should then be mailed to the appropriate USCIS Service Center.

If you live in Texas, mail your application packet to one of the following according to your delivery method:

**For U. S. Postal Service deliveries:**
- USCIS Dallas Lockbox
- USCIS P O Box 660867
- Dallas, TX, 75266

**For express mail & commercial courier service:**
- USCIS, Attn: AOS
- 2501 S. State Hwy 121, Business
- Lewisville, TX, 75067

If you live in a different state during the 24-month OPT extension, refer to the page 1 of I-765 Instructions

**Instructions on I-765:**
You may [download](https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/files/form/i-765.pdf) an electronic version of the I-765

Instructions for completing the I-765:
- DO NOT leave any questions blank, write “None” or “N/A” (Not Applicable) as needed, Make sure to write directly under the parentheses
• Item 3: Please use your own address and submit copies of your OPT Extension EAD card to our office 
  OR (if you are moving) you may use the International Office address for the return address:
    o Written as: 601 University Dr., Thornton Hs. | San Marcos| TX | 78666
• Item 18: Entry visa status: Example F-1 Student OR H-4 Dependent
• Item 19: F-1 Student
• Item 20: should be: “(c) (3) (C)” code for requesting OPT Stem-Extension
• Item 21: “list the major”: Review the CIP code listed on your I-20 & type your degree name as it appears on the I-20.
Make sure you submit the I-765 with your original signature.

You must complete the I-765 yourself, however if you would like the International Office advisors to review the I-765 for accuracy prior to you sending it to USCIS, please e-mail a copy of it to the International Office: international@txstate.edu and wait at least 5 business days for a reply.

Statement of Understanding and Reporting Responsibilities for OPT STEM Extension
1. An F-1 student who has properly filed Form I-765 prior to the end date of his or her 12 month post completion OPT is allowed to maintain continuous employment for up to 180 days while USCIS adjudicates the request for the extension.
2. USCIS will notify the applicant of the decision and, if the application is denied, of the reason or reasons for the denial. The applicant may not appeal the decision.
3. The employment authorization period for the 24-month OPT extension begins on the day after the expiration of the initial post-completion OPT employment authorization and ends 24 months thereafter, regardless of the date the actual extension is approved.
4. For the 24-month STEM extension, employment must be traditional paid employment for at least 20 hours per week. During your 24-month STEM extension, you may work in a paid position for only an employer that is an E-Verified.
5. F-1 students may not accrue more than 120 days of unemployment during the total period of employment authorization or 29 months. If the student mails the OPT STEM application themselves, the student is responsible for filing form AR-11, Alien's Change of Address Card in order to notify Department of Homeland Security of any address change, especially if one occurs while the OPT-24 application is pending. Failure to do so may result in a delay in receiving the OPT-24 Employment Authorization Document (EAD).
6. Reporting Requirements While on the 24-Month OPT. Compliance is mandatory in order to maintain lawful F-1 status.

10-Day Reporting Requirements Within 10 days of the change, the student must report (using an OPT Personal Information Update Form in Email or person) to the student’s DSO a change in:
  • Full legal name, Current mailing and Residential address, Phone number and Email
  • Employer name, Employer address, Loss of employment, Date you began working for the current employer

6-Month Reporting Requirements Every 6 months you will receive an automatic e-mail from the International Office requiring a validation report regarding your employment. The validation report requires the same information that is required on a OPT Personal Update form. Regardless of when you last updated your employment information, you are required to reply to the e-mail from the International Office. The report is due within 10 business days of when it is requested.
  • Name and address of the current employer, Date you began working for the current employer (company)
  • Your full legal name, current mailing and residential address, phone number and email

What should students report to ensure that their status does not expire due to excessive unemployment time? Students are encouraged to report changes in employment to their DSO as soon as possible through the OPT Change of Personal Data form on the International Office website. SEVP recommends that students report changes within 10 business days of the change to avoid situations where a DHS official may determine the student is out of status.
OPT 24-month STEM OPT Extension
International Office, 601 University Dr., San Marcos, TX 78666
Ph: (512) 245-7966 - Fax: (512) 245-8264 – Email: International@txstate.edu

• I have read and understand the statements above and certify that I will take full responsibility for execution of the above mentioned reporting requirements and that I will not rely on the International Office at Texas State to remind me of my responsibility.
• I have been informed by this Statement of Understanding provided by the Designated School Official at the International Office at Texas State University-San Marcos of my responsibilities for maintaining status while on OPT.
• I also understand that I am responsible to monitor the International Office website at Texas State University and the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) website (https://www.ice.gov/sevis) for subsequent updates to any reporting requirements and that I will be responsible for complying with those requirements.
• I have read all statements contained in this Statement of Understanding and by signing below indicate that I understand the statements and will comply with the reporting requirements outlined therein.

___________________________
Applicant Signature

___________________________
Date