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[Information For Students on OPT/STEM](#)

This information is made available here for students who have graduated and thus can no longer be considered a current student.

[Optional Practical Training and the STEM Extension on the F-1 Visa](#)

Post-completion Optional Practical training (OPT) is a 12-month employment authorization for F-1 students.

F-1 students are permitted one period of OPT after each degree level, and they must engage in a job related to their field of study.

Students who complete degrees in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics may be eligible for the STEM extension.

[Eligibility](#)

To be eligible for post-completion OPT, the student must have been in valid visa status and completed a degree program.

To be eligible for the STEM extension, a student must have completed a qualifying degree in a STEM field.

[Watch a recording of our STEM Extension Virtual Information Session to learn more, or view our OPT/STEM Timeline.](#)

[OPT/STEM Timeline](#)

90 Days prior to the completion of Coursework (I-20 Program End Date) – post-completion OPT application deadline.

Student completes the Canvas course and submits the Post-completion OPT I-20 Request Form.
Within 30 days of the I-20 issuance, student submits I-765 application to USCIS, which issues the EAD card.
USCIS adjudicates the OPT application, usually in about 3 months. USCIS sends the student the EAD card.
The EAD card is manufactured and shipped separately to the student.

If the student has also applied for the SSN on the same I-765, a different federal agency, the Social Security Administration, issues the SSN.
When the student acquires an employment, they notify the UIS and submit the Update of Employment Form.
UIS updates the SEVIS record and reprints an I-20, which includes the employer information.
The student continues to report to the UIS any changes in employment or personal contact information.
If eligible, the student begins the STEM Extension application 90 days prior to the EAD expiration date.
Student submits the STEM OPT I-20 Request Form to the UIS along with the I-983 and other required documents.
Within 60 days of I-20 issuance, student submits the I-765 application to USCIS, which sends the application to USCIS.
USCIS adjudicates the STEM Extension application, usually in about 3 months. The student receives the EAD card.
USCIS sends the student an approval notice, and the new EAD card is manufactured and shipped to the student.
The student continues to report to the UIS any changes in employment or personal contact information.
6 months after the STEM start date, the student reports in to the UIS using the Update of Employment Form.
12 months after the STEM start date, the student reports in to the UIS to confirm their OPT status.
18 months after the STEM start date, the student reports in to the UIS to confirm their OPT status.
24 months after the STEM start date, the student reports in to the UIS to confirm their OPT status.
At any time during OPT/STEM, the student may change status from F-1 to another visa status.
When the STEM Extension ends, the student may start a new academic program at the same or a different university.

CONTACT US

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ALSO OF INTEREST:

[Apply for OPT STEM Extension - University of New Haven](#)[Changing Employers - University of New Haven](#)

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