

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

OMB APPROVAL NO. 1653-0054
EXPIRATION DATE: 5/31/2025

TRAINING PLAN FOR STEM OPT STUDENTS

Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) Optional Practical Training (OPT)

SECTION 1: STUDENT INFORMATION (Completed by Student)			
Student Name (Surname/Primary Name, Given Name): Ankit Thapa		Student Email Address: ankit.thapa@selu.edu	
Name of School Recommending STEM OPT: Wilmington University	Name of School Where STEM Degree Was Earned: Wilmington University	SEVIS School Code of School Recommending STEM OPT (including 3-digit suffix): PHI214F00138002	
Designated School Official (DSO) Name and Contact Information: Bridget Fleming bridget.r.fleming@wilmu.edu 302-356-6797		Student SEVIS ID No.: N0009699850	STEM OPT Requested Period (mm-dd-yyyy): From: 07/02/2023 To: 07/02/2025
Qualifying Major and Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code: <u>Information Technology 11.0103</u>			
Level/Type of Qualifying Degree: <u>MASTER'S</u>			
Date Awarded (mm-dd-yyyy): <u>05/01/2022</u>			
Based on Prior Degree? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
Employment Authorization Number: <u>IOE9431770096</u>			
SECTION 2: STUDENT CERTIFICATION			
I declare and affirm under penalty of perjury that the statements and information made herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I understand that the law provides severe penalties for knowingly and willfully falsifying or concealing a material fact, or using any false document in the submission of this form.			
I certify that:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. I have reviewed, understand, and will adhere to this Training Plan for STEM OPT Students ("Plan");2. I will notify the DSO at the earliest available opportunity if I believe that my employer is not providing me with appropriate training as delineated on this Plan;3. I understand that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) may deny, revoke, or terminate the STEM OPT of students whom DHS determines are not engaging in OPT in compliance with the law, including the STEM OPT of students who are not, or whose employers are not, complying with this Plan;4. My practical training opportunity is directly related to the STEM degree that qualifies me for the STEM OPT extension; and5. I will notify the DSO at the earliest available opportunity regarding any material changes to or deviations from this Plan, including but not limited to, any change of Employer Identification Number resulting from a corporate restructuring, any nontrivial reduction in compensation from the amount previously submitted on the Plan that is not tied to a reduction in hours worked, any significant decrease in hours per week that I engage in a STEM training opportunity, and any decrease in hours below the 20-hours-per-week minimum required under this rule.			
Signature of Student (Sign in ink): <u>Ankit</u>			
Printed Name of Student: <u>ANKIT THAPA</u> Date (mm-dd-yyyy): <u>01/26/2023</u>			

SECTION 3: EMPLOYER INFORMATION (Completed by Employer)

Employer Name: Essent Guaranty, Inc.		Street Address: 100 Matsonford Road		Suite: Building 2	
Employer Website URL: Essent.us		City: Radnor		State: PA	ZIP Code: 190887
Employer ID Number (EIN): 26-3728115	Number of Full-Time Employees in U.S.: 265	North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Code: 13634			
OPT Hours Per Week (must be at least 20 hours/week): 40.00	Compensation: A. Salary Amount and Frequency: \$68,000, Annual - Bi Monthly				
Start Date of Employment (mm-dd-yyyy): 01/03/2023	B. Other Compensation (Type and Estimated Amount or Value): 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____				

SECTION 4: EMPLOYER CERTIFICATION

I declare and affirm under penalty of perjury that the statements and information made herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I understand that the law provides severe penalties for knowingly and willfully falsifying or concealing a material fact, or using any false document in the submission of this form.

I certify on behalf of the employer that this Training Plan for STEM OPT Students ("Plan") is approved and that:

1. I have reviewed and understand this Plan, and I will ensure that the supervising Official follows this Plan;
2. I will notify the DSO at the earliest available opportunity regarding any material changes to this Plan, including but not limited to, any change of Employer Identification Number resulting from a corporate restructuring, any reduction in compensation from the amount previously submitted on the Plan that is not tied to a reduction in hours worked, any significant decrease in hours per week that a student engages in a STEM training opportunity, and any decrease in hours below the 20-hours-per-week minimum required under this rule;
3. Within five business days of the termination or departure of the student during the authorized period of OPT, I will report such termination or departure to the DSO (Note: business days do not include federal holidays or weekend days; and an employer shall consider a student to have departed when the employer knows the student has left the practical training opportunity, or when the student has not reported for practical training for a period of five consecutive business days without the consent of the employer); and
4. I will adhere to all applicable regulatory provisions that govern this program (see 8 CFR Part 214), which include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. The student's practical training opportunity is directly related to the STEM degree that qualifies the student for the STEM OPT extension, and the position offered to the student achieves the objectives of his or her participation in this training program;
 - b. The student will receive on-site supervision and training, consistent with this Plan, by experienced and knowledgeable staff;
 - c. The employer has sufficient resources and personnel to provide the specified training program set forth in this Plan, and the employer is prepared to implement that program, including at the location(s) identified in this Plan;
 - d. The student on a STEM OPT extension will not replace a full- or part-time, temporary or permanent U.S. worker. The terms and conditions of the STEM practical training opportunity—including duties, hours, and compensation—are commensurate with the terms and conditions applicable to the employer's similarly situated U.S. workers or, if the employer does not employ and has not recently employed more than two similarly situated U.S. workers in the area of employment, the terms and conditions of other similarly situated U.S. workers in the area of employment; and
 - e. The training conducted pursuant to this Plan complies with all applicable Federal and State requirements relating to employment.

Note: DHS may, at its discretion, conduct a site visit of the employer to ensure that program requirements are being met, including that the employer possesses and maintains the ability and resources to provide structured and guided work-based learning experiences consistent with this Plan.

Signature of Employer Official with Signatory Authority (Sign in ink): _____

Printed Name and Title of Employer Official with Signatory Authority: Mary L. Gibbons, SVP and CLO

Date (mm-dd-yyyy): 04/20/2023 Printed Name of Employing Organization: Essent Guaranty, Inc.

SECTION 5: TRAINING PLAN FOR STEM OPT STUDENTS (Completed by Student and Employer)	
Student Name (Surname/Primary Name, Given Name): Ankit Thapa	
Employer Name: Essent Guaranty, Inc.	
EMPLOYER SITE INFORMATION	
Site Name: Radnor Office	Site Address (Street, City, State, ZIP): 100 Matsonford Road, Radnor, PA 19087
Name of Official: Mary L. Gibbons	Official's Title: Senior Vice President and Chief Legal Officer
Official's Email: mary.gibbons@essent.us	Official's Phone Number: +1 (610) 230-0558
Note: for the remaining fields in this section, employers who already have an internal/pre-existing training plan in place may fill in the details based on that plan.	
<p>Student Role: Describe the student's role with the employer and how that role is directly related to enhancing the student's knowledge obtained through his or her qualifying STEM degree.</p> <p>The student is working as an Architect/Systems Engineer and is responsible for two projects. The first project is a document classification system based on machine learning to automate document processing while the second is a decision support system for underwriters that scales and automates business decisions. The student is required to utilize the knowledge and skills that are obtained from his MS, Information Systems Technology to perform his position.</p>	
<p>Goals and Objectives: Describe how the assignment(s) with the employer will help the student achieve his or her specific objectives for work-based learning related to his or her STEM degree. The description must both specify the student's goals regarding specific knowledge, skills, or techniques as well as the means by which they will be achieved.</p> <p>The main goal of this training and work assignment is to provide the student with theoretical and practical hands-on experience in multiple fields including, mortgage finance, application of machine learning to solve business problems, large enterprise system design and DevSecOps using both knowledge and experience that he gained during his MS program and also skills that he is learning on the job.</p>	
<p>Employer Oversight: Explain how the employer provides oversight and supervision of individuals filling positions such as that being filled by the named F-1 student. If the employer has a training program or related policy in place that controls such oversight and supervision, please describe.</p> <p>The student is working as part of a project team where he has direct supervision from the VP of Architecture, Strategy and Planning as well as matrixed oversight from other more experienced team members. These team members work with him to align his goals and determine next steps in completing his training and assigned projects. The team members review his work and provide direct feedback that is incorporated into his training.</p>	
<p>Measures and Assessments: Explain how the employer measures and confirms whether individuals filling positions such as that being filled by the named F-1 student are acquiring new knowledge and skills. If the employer has a training program or related policy in place that controls such measures and assessments, please describe.</p> <p>The supervisor meets daily with the student to monitor work assignments, determining if the student is meeting company performance standards and if the work is compliant with applicable regulatory requirements. Feedback is given directly to help the student improve and additional training may be prescribed as needed to enrich the student's knowledge base.</p>	

Additional Remarks (optional): Provide additional information pertinent to the Plan.

The student's progress is carefully monitored for performance to ensure they stay on track for the trajectory of the training program. Additional training is provided to ensure their successful completion.

SECTION 6: EMPLOYER OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION

I declare and affirm under penalty of perjury that the statements and information made herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I understand that the law provides severe penalties for knowingly and willfully falsifying or concealing a material fact, or using any false document in the submission of this form.

Employer Official with Signatory Authority - I certify that:

1. I have reviewed, understand, and will follow this Training Plan for STEM OPT Students (Plan);
2. I will conduct the required periodic evaluations of the student;*
3. I will adhere to all applicable regulatory provisions that govern this program (*see 8 CFR Part 214.2(f)(10)(ii)*); and
4. I will notify the DSO regarding any material changes to or material deviations from this Plan at the earliest available opportunity, including if I believe the student is not receiving appropriate training as delineated in this Plan.

Signature of Employer Official with Signatory Authority (Sign in ink): _____

Printed Name and Title of Employer Official with Signatory Authority: Mary L. Gibbons

Date (mm-dd-yyyy): 04/20/2023

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

AUTHORITIES: Section 101(a)(15)(F) of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, as amended (INA), 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(F), Section 641 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRIRA), Pub. L. 104-208, Div. C, 110 Stat. 3009-546 (codified at 8 U.S.C. 1372), Section 502 of the Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-173, 116 Stat. 543 (codified at 8 U.S.C. 1762) and Homeland Security Presidential Directive No. 2 (HSPD-2), authorize U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to collect the information requested in this form.

PURPOSE: The information collection on this form is used to assist in the administration of the STEM Optional Practical Training (OPT) extension so that Designated School Officials (DSO) can properly recommend the Student for and review and help coordinate his or her STEM optional practical training opportunity.

ROUTINE USES: The information collected on this form may be shared with: the individuals who signed the Plan, relevant DSOs acting as liaisons with the DHS, Federal, State, local, or foreign government entities for law enforcement purposes, Members of Congress in response to requests on the Student's behalf, or as otherwise authorized pursuant to its published Privacy Act system of records notice - Privacy Act of 1974: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, DHS/ICE-001 Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) System of Records (<https://www.dhs.gov/system-records-notices-sorns>).

DISCLOSURE: The information you provide is voluntary. However, failure to provide the information requested on this form may delay or prevent participation in a STEM OPT opportunity.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 7.5 hours per response, including time required for searching existing data sources, gathering the necessary documentation, providing the information and/or documents required, and reviewing the final collection. You do not have to supply this information unless this collection displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. If you have comments on the accuracy of this burden estimate and/or recommendations for reducing it, send them to: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Office of Policy, 500 12th Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20536

*See evaluation forms that follow for student's first evaluation, to occur before the one year anniversary of the start date of the student's STEM OPT employment authorization, and final program evaluation.

EVALUATION ON STUDENT PROGRESS

Provide a self-evaluation of your performance, using the measures previously identified, in applying and acquiring new knowledge, skills, and competencies identified in the Training Plan for STEM OPT Students. Discuss accomplishments, successful projects, overall contributions, etc., during this review period. Address whether there are any modifications to the objectives and goals for projects, or new areas for skill and competency development.

Range of Evaluation Dates: From (mm-dd-yyyy): _____ To (mm-dd-yyyy): _____

Signature of Student (Sign in ink): _____

Printed Name of Student: _____ Date (mm-dd-yyyy): _____

Signature of Employer Official with Signatory Authority (Sign in ink): _____

Printed Name of Employer Official with Signatory Authority: _____ Date (mm-dd-yyyy): _____

FINAL EVALUATION ON STUDENT PROGRESS

Provide a self-evaluation of your performance, using the measures previously identified, in applying and acquiring new knowledge, skills, and competencies identified in the Training Plan for STEM OPT Students. Discuss accomplishments, successful projects, overall contributions, etc., during this review period. Address whether there are any modifications to the objectives and goals for projects, or new areas for skill and competency development.

Range of Evaluation Dates: From (mm-dd-yyyy): _____ To (mm-dd-yyyy): _____

Signature of Student (Sign in ink): _____

Printed Name of Student: _____ Date (mm-dd-yyyy): _____

Signature of Employer Official with Signatory Authority (Sign in ink): _____

Printed Name of Employer Official with Signatory Authority: _____ Date (mm-dd-yyyy): _____