STEM OPT Regulations Agreement

Regulations governing STEM OPT are similar to those for OPT, but
there are some important differences. Before requesting an I-20 with STEM OPT recommendation,
carefully read over the regulations and make sure you understand how to remain compliant.

QUALIFYING STEM DEGREE

In order to apply for STEM OPT, the CIP code on your I-20 must also be on the DHS STEM list:
https://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/stemList2023.pdf . If the CIP code is not on the list, you do not
qualify for STEM OPT. If you have more than one major, you can do jobs related to each major that has a
CIP code on the DHS list.

SEVP PORTAL

You will continue to use the SEVP Portal to do your required reporting to Calvin University and SEVP.

REQUIRED REPORTING, NEW I-20:

If any of the following changes, you must update the information in the SEVP Portal as soon as possible
and then contact the DSO to receive an updated I-20:

- Start date of job
- End date of job
- City where job is performed
- Change of legal name

REQUIRED REPORTING, NO NEW I-20:

If any of the following changes, you must update the information in the SEVP Portal as soon as possible.
You do NOT need to contact the DSO for these changes, and you will not receive a new I-20 because this
information does not appear on your I-20:

- Name, e-mail address, or phone number of your supervisor
- The address where you live

REQUIRED UPDATES TO FORM I-983:

If any of the following changes, you must submit a new form I-983 with new signatures from you and a
relevant company official:

- Any change of the employer's EIN.
- Any reduction in your compensation that is not tied to a reduction in hours worked.
- Any significant decrease in weekly hours that you engage in a STEM training opportunity.
- Changes to the employer's commitments or your learning objectives as listed on Form I-983.

SELF-EVAUALTIONS and 6-MONTH CHECK-INS

You must submit the first self-evaluation on page 5 of the I-983 to Calvin's DSO after 12 months of STEM
OPT and the second after 24 months (or after ending a STEM OPT job if less than 24 months).

Every six months, you must log in to the SEVP Portal and check that your information is up to date. Then
please e-mail the DSO and confirm that you have done this. The DSO can then submit the required
participation report for you in SEVIS.

UNEMPLOYMENT

You may be unemployed for no more than 150 days starting from the start date on your EAD. Every
day counts toward the 150 days, including Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. Any days of
unemployment from the first year of OPT (before the STEM extension) count towards the 150 days.

Unemployment days stop accumulating when you **start** a new job, not when you get a job offer. Once you start a new job, weekends and holidays do NOT count as unemployment.

You do not need to "report" unemployment; simply report the start date and end date of all employment, and SEVP will automatically calculate how many days of unemployment accrued.

VOLUNTEERING
Unlike during regular OPT, unpaid volunteering cannot count as employment during STEM OPT. You may still participate in "true volunteering" at non-profit organization doing work for which no one is normally paid, but even if it is related to your major, it cannot be counted as STEM OPT employment.

TRAVEL:
If your STEM OPT is approved, you will need the following for reentry to the U.S.:
- Valid passport
- Valid F-1 visa
- I-20 with recent travel signature on page 2 (less than 6 months old)
- Unexpired EAD card
- Optional but recommended: proof of employment (a letter from your employer stating that you are employed, that your international travel is either required for business OR is taking place during an authorized vacation)

Do not travel internationally while your STEM OPT application is pending. You risk not being allowed reentry to the U.S. Wait to travel until STEM OPT has been approved and you have the new EAD in hand.

OPTIONAL EMPLOYMENT DOCUMENTATION

In its OPT Policy Guidance [7.2.3], SEVP also recommends that students keep documentation that their OPT employment is directly related to their degree program:

"SEVP recommends that students maintain evidence - for each job - of the position held, proof of the duration of that position, the job title, contact information for the student's supervisor or manager, and a description of the work. If it is not clear from the job description that the work is related to the student's degree, SEVP highly recommends that the student obtain a signed letter from the employer's hiring official, supervisor, or manager stating how the student's degree is related to the work performed."

Please note that none of this documentation can be provided by Calvin, nor can Calvin request it for you; it is between you and your employer. Some employers will be willing to provide documentation, others will not. This documentation is not required. Some students have found it helpful when applying for other immigration benefits such as H1-B, permanent residency, etc.

STUDENT ATTESTATION
I have read these regulations and agree to inform Calvin University and SEVP of all necessary information. I understand that failure to report on time will result in the loss of my F-1 status.

Signed: _____Date: _____

Please print and sign by hand. Typed "signatures" will not be accepted. You may then scan and e-mail the signed form.