F-1 students approved for standard post-completion optional practical training based on a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree in a STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) field that appears on the DHS STEM-Designated Degree Program List can apply to USCIS for a one-time 24-month extension of post-completion OPT. To be eligible for the extension, the student's employer must be registered in E-Verify and must agree to report to the DSO when the student is terminated or leaves employment. The student must apply for the STEM OPT extension before their standard period of post-completion OPT expires, and must also agree to make periodic reports to the DSO.

Following are important regulations to read through, they are not necessarily in sequence.

The I-765 must be filed with USCIS before the student's current OPT EAD expires. SEVP OPT Policy Guidance item 5.6 also states, "A student may file for the 24-month extension up to 90 days prior to the end of his or her post-completion OPT."

A student who has applied for a STEM extension on time may continue to work up to 180 days beyond the EAD end date while the application is pending.

To be eligible for a STEM OPT extension, the student's employer must be "registered in the E-Verify program" and be "a participant in good standing in the E-Verify program, as determined by USCIS."

8 C.F.R. § 214.2(f)(10)(ii)(C)(3)

The student's employer is registered in the E-Verify program, as evidenced by either a valid E-Verify company identification number or, if the employer is using a designated agent to perform the E-Verify queries, a valid E-Verify client company identification number, and the employer is a participant in good standing in the E-Verify program, as determined by USCIS.

A student may change employers during the 24-month period, but all employers that a student will work for during the STEM extension period must be registered in the DHS E-Verify program, and the student must report the change in employment to his or her DSO.

To apply for the 24-month STEM OPT extension, the DSO must first recommend the extension in SEVIS, and then print an I-20 containing the recommendation.

The student must then file Form I-765 with USCIS. The Form I-765 should indicate code (c)(3)(C) at item 16, and item 17 must contain the requested information on the student's degree and the employer's E-Verify Company or Client Identification Number.
The Extend OPT Employment screen will be completed with the employer name and address exactly as provided by the student. The employment start and end dates will be for a 24-month period beginning the day after the student’s current period of post-completion OPT expires – regardless of when it is actually approved.

Note that the extension application of a student who is ineligible for an extension will be denied and the application fee will not be returned.

A student who has applied for a STEM extension can continue working for up to 180 days beyond the expiration of the prior post-completion OPT while the STEM extension application is pending, which time will be counted as part of the 24-month STEM OPT authorization.

During the 24-month STEM OPT extension, the student must report to his or her DSO within 10 days of any change of the following [8 C.F.R. § 214.2(f)(12)(ii)]. The DSO must then update SEVIS within 21 days of receiving notification of the change from the student [8 C.F.R. 214.3(g)(2)(ii)(F)].

- legal name
- residential or mailing address
- employer name
- employer address, and/or
- loss of employment

Update or verify with Calvin University every six months the following via the SEVP Portal:
1. employer
2. job title
3. employer’s address
4. supervisor & contact information
5. residential address
6. contact information

I have read this and agree to abide by the regulations of the STEM Extension.

Name ____________________________________________

Date ______________________________