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New Mexico State University

International Student & Scholar Services

1780 E. University Ave.
Educational Services Center, Suite 101
Las Cruces, NM 88003
<https://iss.nmsu.edu/>

STEM OPT Extension Information

STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Math) OPT extension eligibility requirements:

- Earn a degree in an approved STEM major
- Apply for and receive Post Completion OPT
- Accrue less than 90 days of unemployment during the initial OPT
- Be employed by, or have a job offer from, an E-Verify employer

If you are eligible for the STEM extension, complete the STEM OPT Extension Request Form (below) and submit it to NMSU International Student & Scholar Services via email – ISSS@NMSU.EDU.

The deadline to submit the online STEM OPT Extension application is the end date of your current OPT, as stated in the EAD. If you meet this deadline, you can continue working for up to 180 days, pending receipt of the new EAD.

Checklist for your online application:

- Digital color U.S. style passport photo of yourself taken within the last 6 months
- Most recent Form I-94
- Scan of passport identification page (plus extension page, if applicable)
- A clear PDF copy (front and back) of your current post-completion OPT Employment Authorization Document (EAD) card
- Scan of STEM OPT Requested I-20 from NMSU ISSS issued within 60 days of filing the STEM OPT application with USCIS
- A clear PDF copy of your diploma and/or official transcript for the STEM degree
- Institution Accreditation for previously earned STEM degree - If your previously earned STEM degree was not from NMSU, please search for documentation of your academic institution's accreditation online or contact your previous academic institution to verify how to obtain evidence of school accreditation.
 - [Higher Learning Commission \(HLC\) Accreditation Letter](#)
 - [NMSU Specialized Accreditation](#) – Look for your program in the search box.

STEM OPT Extension Request Form



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<u>Personal Information</u>	
Name	
NMSU Aggie ID#	
Permanent (non-NMSU) Email Address	
SEVIS ID#	
Current U.S. Address	
<u>Employer Information</u>	
Company Name	
Address	
<u>Supervisor's Information</u>	
Name	
E-mail	
Phone #	
<u>Job Information</u>	
Employment Start Date	
Job Title	
Explain how Employment is related to your course of study.	

Is there previous employment that was not reported to ISSS? Yes No

If yes, please use the link to provide reported previous employment.

<https://iss.nmsu.edu/files/iss-pdfs/stem-opt-forms.pdf>

Conditions:

- I understand the eligibility requirements to receive a STEM OPT Extension I-20.
- I understand the requirements for maintaining my F-1 status during STEM OPT.
- I understand that I am responsible for reporting any changes/updates to my employment or U.S. address to ISSS.
- I understand that I must comply with STEM OPT reporting requirements in form I-983.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Email this form to ISSS@NMSU.EDU.