



Purpose of this form: for students who wish to apply for the 24-month STEM OPT extension.

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

- Earn a degree in an approved STEM major, refer to the list provided by DHS <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/stemList2024.pdf>
- A STEM degree was earned within the last 10 years from an SEVP-certified school. Per [8 CFR 214.2\(f\)\(10\)\(ii\)\(C\)\(3\)](#)
- Apply for and receive Post-Completion OPT
- Accrue less than 90 days of unemployment during the Post-Completion 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 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 your current Post-Completion OPT end date, 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.

An F-1 student must submit the STEM OPT application(I-765) to USCIS within 60 days of the DSO's I-20 recommendation.

Checklist for I-20 STEM OPT Application:

- ☐ Completed STEM OPT Extension Request Form
- ☐ Completed I-983
- ☐ Most recent Form I-94 & Travel History
- ☐ Valid copy of passport identification page (plus extension page, if applicable)
- ☐ Clear copy of F-1 visa
- ☐ A clear PDF copy (front and back) of your current post-completion OPT Employment Authorization Document (EAD) card
- ☐ A clear PDF copy of your diploma and 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 educational 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.
- ☐ Digital color U.S. style passport photo of yourself taken within the last 6 months
- ☐ Current Address(es) must match what is in the SEVP portal.



Request Form

Section 1: Personal Information

Full Name (as it appears on passport):

NMSU Aggie ID#:

SEVIS ID#:

Phone #:

Date of Birth:

Email Address (personal):

Current U.S. Physical Address:

Current U.S. Mailing address:

Section 2: Employer's Information

Company's Name:

E-Verify #:

Company's Address:

Section 3: Supervisor's Information

Full Name:

E-mail Address:

Title:

Phone #:

Section 4: Job Information

STEM Emp. Start Date:

Job Title:

Explain how Employment is related to your course of study.

Section 5: Employment History

Is there previous employment that was not reported to ISSS/SEVIS while on Post-Completion OPT?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please use the link to provide information.

[Unreported Employment Form](#)

Have you had any days of unemployment that you did not report while on Post-Completion OPT?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, from _____ to _____ mm/dd/yyyy

Section 6: Student's Acknowledgement (please initial per statement)

- 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: _____