Abstract geometric lines forming various polygons and shapes, primarily in the upper left and center of the page.

**24-MONTH
STEM
EXTENSION
OPT**

What is 24-Month STEM Extension OPT?

24-Month STEM Extension OPT (also known as “STEM OPT” and “STEM”) is an extension for 24-months (2 years) for students completing their 12-Month Post-Completion OPT.

While 12-Month Post-Completion OPT is available to every student that graduates with a Bachelor’s, Master’s or Doctorate degree, the STEM Extension is only available for those students with a degree in a STEM field:

These are the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics fields – hence “STEM”.

How do you know that you are in a STEM field?

For STEM OPT Extension, students must have graduated from in a STEM CIP degree program.

The CIP Code number is found on the I-20 next to your degree program name.

It is a six-digit number, with the first two numbers separated by a decimal point:



PROGRAM OF STUDY

EDUCATION LEVEL MASTER'S	MAJOR 1 Computer Science 11.0701	MAJOR 2 None 00.0000
PROGRAM ENGLISH PROFICIENCY Required	ENGLISH PROFICIENCY NOTES Student is proficient	EARLIEST ADMISSION DATE 17 JULY 2021
START OF CLASSES 23 AUGUST 2021	PROGRAM START/END DATE 16 AUGUST 2021 - 16 DECEMBER 2022	

To check to see if your CIP is a STEM eligible code, please go to [Eligible CIP Codes for the STEM OPT Extension | Study in the States \(dhs.gov\)](https://www.dhs.gov/eligible-cip-codes).
(You can Google STEM CIP codes to find it also.)

To be eligible --

You must be employed when you apply, unlike with 12-Month Post-Completion OPT.

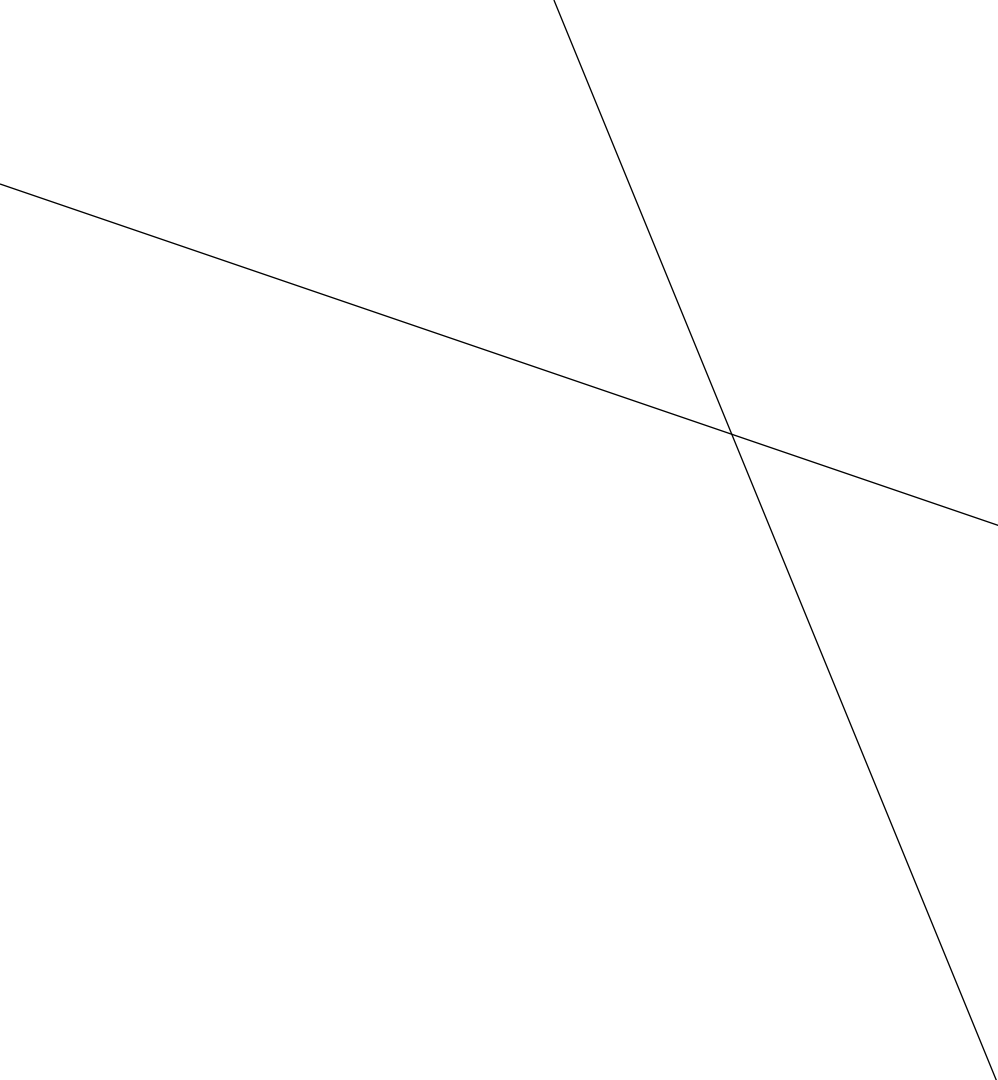
Your employer must be E-Verified. (It is easy and free for Employers to enroll in the E-Verify program.)

The employment must still be related to your degree program.

You must apply using a “STEM-Requested” I-20.
To apply without that I-20 will result in a denial.

The STEM Extension is an Extension of your current 12-Month Post-Completion OPT. That means that it will start the day after your OPT ends.

You cannot select new dates, and you must apply to USCIS at least four days before your end-date on your EAD card.



Students can submit their application using the USCIS portal ninety (90) days before the end-date on their EAD card.

If a student applies before that time, it is too early and will result in a denial.

Student should not wait too close to their OPT end date to submit their documents to ISAO. They should submit them for review at least two weeks before their end-date.

Remember: You **must have the STEM-Requested I-20 from our office before you submit your application to USCIS. To submit it without the I-20 from our office will result in a denial.**

What to submit to ISAO for the STEM-Requested I-20?

- 24-Month STEM OPT Checklist
- The 24-Month STEM OPT Employer Form
- The I-983
- Copy of the Receipt for Fee payment for our office (\$200). This is nonrefundable.



The 24-Month STEM OPT Checklist

Found on our webpage
(<https://www.umkc.edu/isa o/current-students/employment/optional-practical-training.html>) at this link:

<https://www.umkc.edu/isa o/docs/checklist-24-month-stem.pdf>:

The Checklist has the other three items that must be submitted to our office toward the top of the list.

You do not need to submit the other documents to our office, but the Checklist is valuable to review what is needed for the STEM OPT Extension application with USCIS.

We no longer review the I-765 for students. Do not print this out for us review it. The USCIS system can see this as a student submitting their application and it will result in a denial.



24-MONTH STEM OPT PACKET CHECKLIST

NAME: _____ ID#: _____
(Family/Surname) (First/Given Name)

Items in BOLD are required for ISAO to prepare your STEM OPT I-20. If you did not submit all listed documents to ISAO, make sure all documents are uploaded to USCIS. Copies should be clean and clear. Failure to do this may result in delays. DO NOT SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION TO USCIS WITHOUT FIRST RECEIVING THE STEM-REQUESTED I-20 FROM OUR OFFICE.
 Submit your documents to ISAO using the [Secure Document Upload tool](#) in your Pathway Student Center

ITEM/DOCUMENT	YES	NO	COMMENTS FROM ISAO
Does your employer/employment qualify for STEM? To find out, view the "Form I-983 & Employer Eligibility" found here: https://www.umkc.edu/isao/docs/form-i-983-employer-eligibility.pdf	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	ISAO does not need a copy of this eligibility form, it is just meant as a guide to help you determine whether your employment qualifies for the STEM OPT extension
Is your SEVP Portal employer history up-to-date? To find out how to update employment, please visit: https://www.umkc.edu/isao/current-students/employment/optional-practical-training.html	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
REQUIRED by ISAO: "Employer Form: 24-Month STEM OPT" https://www.umkc.edu/isao/docs/employer-form-stem-opt.pdf	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	REQUIRED by ISAO, do not upload to your online I-765 application; errors due to handwriting are your responsibility
REQUIRED by ISAO: ISAO OPT STEM Fee (\$200, non-refundable) Please print your payment confirmation and include with this packet http://go.umkc.edu/isao-opt-fee	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	REQUIRED by ISAO, do not upload to your online I-765 application
REQUIRED: Form I-983 PDF and instructions are available online here: https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/stem-opt-hub/additional-resources/form-i-983-overview	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	ISAO is REQUIRED to have this document on file, but you do not need to upload to your online I-765 application; errors due to handwriting are your responsibility
Form I-765: USCIS Application for Employment Authorization DO NOT START THE ONLINE APPLICATION UNTIL AFTER YOU HAVE RECEIVED YOUR STEM OPT RECOMMENDATION I-20 FROM ISAO			
Clear color scans of your passport photo page and F-1 Visa page	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Clear print-out of your I-94: https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Copies or scans of the front and back of your EAD card (and any previous EAD cards or I-797 approval notices)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Copy of your offer letter or letter from your employer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Copy of your official UMKC diploma or UMKC transcripts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
One 2x2 color passport photo: Should be taken within 30 days of application. Top of your head should NOT touch top of photo. Taken in front of plain white or off-white background. Must be in color with a neutral expression. No glasses.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
YOU CANNOT SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION TO USCIS MORE THAN 90 DAYS BEFORE YOUR CURRENT OPT ENDS. It will be denied.			
Your HAND-SIGNED UMKC I-20 showing all previous OPT employment and DSO recommendation for STEM OPT on the 2 nd page – must have this from ISAO before you submit your application to USCIS		ISAO WILL EMAIL TO YOU	
REQUIRED: My signature below indicates that I certify and acknowledge I must submit the online I-765 application and all required documents to USCIS within 60 days of I-20 issuance; failure to do so may cause delays or result in a possible denial through no fault of ISAO. I understand the rules, regulations, and unemployment limits of my visa and my STEM Extension OPT (OPT reporting requirements and regulations online here: https://info.umkc.edu/ISAO/current-students/opt/):			
_____			_____
Signature			Date

EMPLOYER FORM: 24-MONTH STEM OPT

Please select ONE:

- I am currently on Post-Completion OPT and am applying for STEM Extension OPT. I am submitting this form along with my completed I-765 and I-983 so that I can receive my STEM Recommendation I-20.
- This is a new STEM employer. I stopped working for my previous employer on the following date: _____
I have included two I-983s with this form: one from my old employer (complete with self-evaluations) and one from my new employer.
- This is an additional STEM employer. I am still working for the following company: _____
I have included a completed I-983 for my additional employer.
- This is NOT a new STEM employer. I am just updating my STEM employer's info (address, email, supervisor's name, etc.).
I have included a copy of my updated I-983 with this form.

_____ SURNAME	_____ FIRST NAME(S)	_____ UMKC ID #
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CURRENT U.S. ADDRESS: _____

EMPLOYER INFORMATION:

_____ COMPANY NAME	_____ COMPANY WEBSITE
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_____ STREET NUMBER AND NAME (SAME AS SITE LOCATION on Pg. 3 of I-983)	_____ CITY	_____ STATE	_____ ZIP CODE
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_____ SUPERVISOR'S SURNAME	_____ SUPERVISOR'S FIRST NAME(S)	_____ SUPERVISOR'S TITLE
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_____ SUPERVISOR'S EMAIL	_____ SUPERVISOR'S PHONE NUMBER
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Please state your employer's EIN or FEIN number (This is NOT the E-Verify number): _____

Please state your job title: _____ Please confirm your start date: _____

PLEASE READ:

- ✓ I certify that the above information is true and correct and that by electronically signing this form that I have read and acknowledged all of the information on these forms.
- ✓ I certify that I understand the rules and regulations of my F-1 visa as well as 24-month STEM OPT
- ✓ I understand the unemployment limits and regulations of my visa: 90 days for OPT, and an additional 60 days for those on 24-month STEM extension.
- ✓ I understand that exceeding unemployment days or not reporting to my DSO within 10 days of any change in employment may result in termination of my I-20/F-1 visa status, and that this is solely my responsibility as the F-1 visa holder.
- ✓ I understand I must validate my employment and US address with ISAO every 6 months.
- ✓ I understand that it is my responsibility to complete the self-evaluations on the I-983 every 12 months and submit a copy to ISAO.
- ✓ I understand my job must be directly related to my field of study and that I must work more than 20 hours per week.
- ✓ I understand that any change in my mailing/residential address, phone number, employer, interruption in employment, termination of employment, or any other change in employment MUST be reported to ISAO and the SEVP Portal within 10 days of the change.
- ✓ I understand that any change in my name, visa status, transfer to another school, or change in degree level MUST be reported to ISAO within 10 days of the change

ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Updated as of 07/2022

The Employer Form for the 24-Month STEM application is found on our webpage.

You should select that you are applying for STEM. Include your current US address.

The employment address should be the actual location where you work, not the company's headquarters. **If you are working remotely, you should put the company location closest to your home, not your home address.**

If you are planning on applying with more than one employer, please be aware that you must work at a minimum of twenty (20) hours for each STEM employer. You must also submit a separate Employer Form and I-983 for each employer you are working for at the time of submitting the application.

The I-983:

Must be submitted to our office before the STEM- Requested I-20 can be generated.

Must have a **signature** where indicated or it cannot be accepted. These can be digital.

Do not put anything on page 5 for the application, as the evaluations are for the one-year anniversary of the STEM start date, and for the end of the STEM period. The final evaluation is also when you quit one employer to start at another employer.

Students do not upload the I-983 in their application to USCIS. They only upload them to our office.

The I-983 can be found through our webpage or by going to <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/i983.pdf>.

Page 1 – The information can be taken from your I-20. The SEVIS School Code of the School Recommending STEM OPT is **KAN214F0063600**

The DSO contact information is Joyce Ward, 816-235-1113. Your SEVIS number is on the upper left corner of your I-20 and states: SEVIS ID: N00XXXXXXXX.

The STEM OPT Requested Period: From date: the day after the end-date on your 12-Month Post-Completion EAD card; To date: two years minus one day from that date.

Put your **Degree Program and the CIP code** found the front of your I-20, then your level (Bachelors, Masters, Doctorate).

The **Date Awarded** would be the end-date of your last semester – **May 12th, 2023**, or **July 28th, 2023**.

Do not select yes on the Prior Degree unless it is an entirely different degree you wish to use. (If so, please reach out to ISAO regarding your application.)

The Employment Authorization Number is on your EAD card.

Page 2 – The start date of employment is the date that you start STEM OPT training with your current employer. It refers to the **start date of your STEM OPT period**, not when you started working with your employer. This should be completed by the Employer.

Page 3 – Completed by both the Employer and the Student together.

Page 4 – Can be signed by anyone from the Employer with Signatory Authority – does not have to be the student's supervisor.

Page 5 – Do not fill in anything on this page. This is for future use.

PAYMENT TO USCIS FOR STEM

The payment for the STEM application to USCIS is **\$410.00**. This will change to **\$470.00** April 1st, 2024.

There is a Premium Processing available from USCIS. It is an *additional* **\$1,500**. This amount will change to **\$1,685.00** on February 26th.

Since students applying for their STEM Extension **can work for 180 days from the date of their Receipt Notice without receiving the STEM EAD card**, this added request and expense usually not necessary.

Payment for the STEM application will be expected to be made at the end of the application.

What to do -- and when to do it . . .

- 1st _____ Check your date to apply. Remember: You cannot apply before ninety (90) days before the end-date on your EAD card, and you **must have a STEM-Requested I-20 to apply.**
- 2nd _____ Work with your Employer on the I-983. Signatures can be digital. But the form must be signed. This is a government requirement.
- 3rd _____ Submit the correctly completed and signed I-983 along with the Employer Form, checklist and the receipt of the Fee payment to our office. Upload everything using the Secure Document Upload tool. This should be done no later than two weeks before the end of the 12-Month Post-Completion OPT.
- 4th _____ Receive your STEM-Request I-20. Review the I-20 to make sure everything is correct. Read the directions included in the email regarding how to apply for the STEM Extension through USCIS.

Apply!



After you apply, remember to:

After you receive the receipt notice of the STEM application, wait a couple of days, then go into the Case Status to make sure that your address is correct. (Even if you have not moved from the address that your original EAD card was sent, you should still verify your address is correct.)

Students applying for the 24-Month STEM Extension OPT are allowed to work **180 days** from the date on their Receipt Notice, even if they do not receive their STEM EAD card until after their 12-Month Post-Completion OPT period ends.



Remember – After you receive your STEM EAD card:

Upload copies of the STEM EAD card, front and back, using the Secure Document Upload tool.

You are required to submit the Validation Report every six months. We will send you the form when you receive your STEM-Requested I-20. Follow the directions on the form.

Students on STEM cannot change employers in the SEVP portal themselves. They must submit a new Employer Form, the final evaluation on page 5 from the I-983 from their previous employer and a completely new and completed I-983 for their new employer. Students can start working before the information is updated.



Questions?

Thank you!