

24-MONTH STEM OPT: FORM I-983 & EMPLOYER ELIGIBILITY

FILLING OUT SECTION 1 OF THE I-983

Section 1 is the ONLY part of Form I-983 that you should complete when you initially apply for STEM. The majority of Form I-983 must be completed by your employer. The self-evaluations should not be filled out when you apply.

- **Name of School Recommending STEM OPT:** University of Missouri-Kansas City
- **Name of School Where STEM Degree Was Earned:** University of Missouri-Kansas City (unless you are applying for STEM from a previous STEM degree with another school)
- **SEVIS school code:** KAN214F00636000
- **Designated School Official Name and Contact Info:**
 - Joyce Ward; 5000 Holmes G-04, Kansas City, MO 64110; 816-235-1113
- **Student SEVIS ID No.:** This can be found at the top of your I-20, it starts with "N" and is followed by 10 numbers
- **STEM OPT Requested Period:**
 - **From:** day after your post-completion OPT end date
 - **To:** 24 months (2 years) from that date
- **Qualifying Major and CIP Code:** See first page of your I-20 for your CIP code; it is listed by your primary major
- **Level/Type of Qualifying Degree:** Example: BS, BA, MS, MA, PhD, etc.
- **Date Awarded:** last day of classes in the term you graduated
- **Based on Prior Degree?:** The answer will usually be no unless you are applying for STEM from a previous degree
- **Employment Authorization Number:** Look on your EAD card
- You must sign your I-983 with black pen; electronic signatures are not accepted

DOES YOUR CURRENT EMPLOYER/EMPLOYMENT QUALIFY FOR STEM?

If you are working for multiple employers, you must ask these questions for each employer.

If you are unsure of an answer, ask your potential STEM employer. ISAO cannot answer these questions for you.

1. **Will you be self-employed?**
 YES. Stop application. This doesn't qualify for STEM. NO. Proceed to next question.
2. **Will you be volunteering meaning that you will not be paid or compensated (transportation, housing, stock, etc.) in any way?**
 YES. Stop application. This doesn't qualify for STEM. NO. Proceed to next question.
3. **Will your potential STEM employment be directly related to your UMKC STEM degree?**
 YES. Proceed to next question. NO. Stop application. This doesn't qualify for STEM.
4. **Will your potential STEM employment assist you in reaching your training goals?**
 YES. Proceed to next question. NO. Stop application. This doesn't qualify for STEM.
5. **Will you be working a minimum of 20 hours per week?**
 YES. Proceed to next question. NO. Stop application. This doesn't qualify for STEM.
6. **Will your job's compensation and working conditions be commensurate with terms/conditions applicable to their similarly situated U.S. workers? (You may have to ask your employer. It is basically saying that any employees doing the same work with the same qualifications-duties, education, expertise, experience, responsibility, skills- should be paid the same).**
 YES. Proceed to next question. NO. Stop application. This doesn't qualify for STEM.
7. **Will your job comply with all applicable Federal and State requirements? (You may have to ask your employer).**
 YES. Proceed to next question. NO. Stop application. This doesn't qualify for STEM.
8. **Is your potential STEM employer enrolled in and in good standing with the E-Verify program with an E-Verify number?**
 YES. Proceed to next question. NO. Stop application. This doesn't qualify for STEM.
9. **Does your potential STEM employer have an IRS Employer Identification Number (EIN)?**
 YES. Proceed to next question. NO. Stop application. This doesn't qualify for STEM.
10. **Will your STEM position replace a full or part-time, temporary or permanent U.S. worker?**
 YES. Stop application. This doesn't qualify for STEM. NO. Proceed to next question.

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11. Does your potential STEM employer have sufficient resources and personnel available to provide training from your training plan?
 YES. Proceed to next question. NO. Stop application. This doesn't qualify for STEM.
12. Will your potential STEM employment be as a sole proprietorship, through a "temp" agency, through a consulting firm that provides labor for hire or other similar relationships?
 YES. Per 81 FR 13079, your employer may not be able to demonstrate a bona fide employer-employee relationship and may not meet the requirements of STEM OPT. Proceed with caution.
 NO. Proceed to next question.
13. Will the potential STEM employer signing the Training Plan be the same entity that employs you and provides training?
 YES. Proceed to next question. NO. Stop application. This doesn't qualify for STEM.
14. Will your potential STEM supervisor/trainer also be an F-1 student on OPT or STEM OPT?
 YES. Stop application. This doesn't qualify for STEM. NO. Proceed to next question.
15. Will your potential STEM employer be assigning or delegating its training responsibilities to a non-employer third party such as a client of the employer, employee of the client, or contractor of the client?
 YES. Stop application. This doesn't qualify for STEM. NO. Proceed to next question.
16. U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) must have access to the potential STEM employer's worksite. Will your potential STEM worksite/place of business be at their clients' place of business where ICE would lack authority to visit?
 YES. Stop application. This doesn't qualify for STEM. NO. Proceed to next question.
17. Will the potential STEM employer's name AND address in section 3 of the I-983 be different than section 5?
 YES. DHS clarified that "STEM OPT participants may engage in a training experience that takes place at a site other than the employer's principal place of business as long as all of the training obligations are met, including that the employer has and maintains a bona fide employer-employee relationship with the student. DHS will review on a case-by-case basis whether the student will be a bona fide employee of the employer signing the Training Plan, and verify that the employer that signs the Training Plan is the same entity that employs the student and provides the practical training experience." Proceed with caution.
 NO. Congratulations! Based on your previous answers, if you made it to the last question then your employer qualifies as a STEM employer. Please be aware that regulations and guidance can change quickly so always ensure you keep detailed documentation for your own records as YOU are responsible.

BASED ON MY ANSWERS, MY EMPLOYER/EMPLOYMENT DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR STEM. WHAT DO I DO NOW?

Unfortunately, all we can advise is that if your employer/employment does not qualify then they should not fill out the Form I-983. By submitting Form I-983, you and your employer are both certifying that they qualify as a STEM employer. Therefore, if they do not qualify to fill out Form I-983 then we cannot update your STEM employment or recommend you for STEM Extension if you are getting ready to apply. We would encourage you to speak with your employer if you have any questions and always update the SEVP Portal with any changes. You and your employer are responsible for correctly filling out Form I-983 and understanding who qualifies and who does not.

This information can be found at the following websites:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2016-04828/p-1>
<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/students-and-exchange-visitors/students-and-employment/stem-opt>