



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA



STEM OPT Extension



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA

INTERNATIONAL ADVISING



Overview

- Who Qualifies?
- What's Different?
- Mentoring and Training Program
- Procedures
- Resources



Who Qualifies?

- Students who are currently in post-completion OPT and hold a degree in an eligible STEM field. See the STEM List here: <https://www.ice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Document/2016/stem-list.pdf>
- Students may use prior STEM degree if
 - Obtained at a SEVP-certified school in the U.S.
 - Degree was at the bachelor's level or higher
 - Degree was earned less than 10 years from date of application
- Students must be employed by companies enrolled in the DHS E-Verify program



What's Different

- Job requirements are stricter
 - Must be full-time paid position at E-Verify enrolled employer
- Cannot be self-employed or start your own business
- Consulting or contracting *may* be okay
 - Must have some sort of supervisor-supervisee relationship
- Addition of a mentoring and training program



Mentoring and Training Program

- Federal regulations require that a formal training plan be created between the student and employer
- The training program must:
 - Clearly lists the student's learning objectives
 - Affirm the employer's commitment to helping the student achieve those objectives



Form I-983

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
TRAINING PLAN FOR STEM OPT STUDENTS
Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) Optional Practical Training (OPT)

OIS APPROVAL NO. 16E3-XXXX
EXPIRATION DATE: 30/00-XXXX

SECTION 1: STUDENT INFORMATION (Completed by Student)

Student Name (Surname/Primary Name, Given Name):		Student Email Address:
Name of School Recommending STEM OPT:	Name of School Where STEM Degree Was Earned:	SEVIS School Code of School Recommending STEM OPT (including 3-digit suffix):
Designated School Official (DSO) Name and Contact Information:	Student SEVIS ID No.:	STEM OPT Requested Period: (mm-dd-yyyy) From: _____ To: _____
Qualifying Major and Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code: _____		
Level/Type of Qualifying Degree: _____		
Date Awarded: (mm-dd-yyyy) _____		
Based on Prior Degree? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Employment Authorization Number: _____		

SECTION 2: STUDENT CERTIFICATION

I declare and affirm under penalty of perjury that the statements and information made herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I understand that the law provides severe penalties for knowingly and willfully falsifying or concealing a material fact, or using any false document in the submission of this form.

I certify that:

- I have reviewed, understand, and will adhere to this Training Plan for STEM OPT Students ("Plan");
- I will notify the DSO at the earliest available opportunity if I believe that my employer is not providing me with appropriate training as delineated on this Plan;
- I understand that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) may deny, revoke, or terminate the STEM OPT of students whom DHS determines are not engaging in OPT in compliance with the law, including the STEM OPT of students who are not, or whose employers are not, complying with this Plan;
- My practical training opportunity is directly related to the STEM degree that qualifies me for the STEM OPT extension; and
- I will notify the DSO at the earliest available opportunity regarding any material changes to or deviations from this Plan, including but not limited to, any change of Employer Identification Number resulting from a corporate restructuring, any nontrivial reduction in compensation from the amount previously submitted on the Plan that is not tied to a reduction in hours worked, any significant decrease in hours per week that I engage in a STEM training opportunity, and any decrease in hours below the 20-hours-per-week minimum required under this rule.

Signature of Student: _____

Printed Name of Student: _____ Date: (mm-dd-yyyy) _____



Form I-983

- Five Sections
 - Student Information (Completed By Student)
 - Student Certification (Completed By Student)
 - Employer Information (Completed By Employer)
 - Employer Certification (Completed By Employer)
 - Training Plan for STEM OPT Students (Completed By Employer)



Form I-983

- Training Plan for STEM OPT Students (The Plan)
 - The employer must complete this section
 - However, this should be a conversation between you and your employer
 - The Plan must contain:
 - Student Role
 - Goals and Objectives
 - Employer Oversight
 - Measures and Assessments
 - Employer must certify the plan



When to apply for STEM OPT

- International Advising will work with students on STEM OPT applications when within 90 days of the standard OPT end date.
- Students may apply to USCIS when within 90 days from the standard OPT end date.
- Students must file applications online with USCIS no later than 30 days after the recommendation for STEM OPT has been entered in SEVIS.
- Students must apply before standard OPT ends in order to continue working up to 150 days beyond your standard OPT end date while your STEM OPT may be pending.



How to Apply

Step 1 – Complete Form I-983: <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/i983.pdf>

- This form and any updated forms during STEM OPT are kept on file with UNO International Advising;
- This form is not included in the STEM OPT application to USCIS at this time.

Step 2 – Submit the STEM OPT Request form in iGlobal – upload your completed and signed Form I-983 in order to receive an updated I-20 recommending STEM OPT from International Advising.

Step 3 - Go to <https://www.uscis.gov/i-765> and click on the “file online” button. Create or login to your account, prepare the I-765, and upload the documentation requested. Be prepared to upload the following:

- Copy of I-20 recommending STEM OPT from International Advising – signed by the advisor and you
- Copy of passport, visa, and I-94
- One passport photo taken within the past 30 days
- Official transcript showing STEM OPT degree and coursework
- Copy of your standard OPT EAD card

Step 4 – If needed, make an appointment with an international student advisor before submitting your application on the USCIS website.

Step 5 – Submit your STEM OPT application on the USCIS website. This will include paying the filing fee. You can find the current filing fee here: <https://www.uscis.gov/i-765>

Reminder: You must apply with USCIS within 30 days of the recommendation for STEM OPT being entered in SEVIS.



After STEM OPT is Granted

- Provide your employer with a copy of your STEM OPT EAD card.
- Upload a copy of your STEM OPT EAD card (front and back) for International Advising through iGlobal – F-1 Practical Training – Upload OPT/STEM OPT Card – Work Authorization EAD E-form.
- You may not accumulate more than 150 days of unemployment (90 days OPT + 60 days STEM OPT)



After STEM OPT is Granted Reporting Requirements

- The following changes must be reported within 10 business days to an international student advisor:
 - Legal name change
 - Residential local/current address change (report this using the SEVP Portal and make the same update in MavLINK so that UNO has your address on file)
 - Change of employment – submit a new I-983 to International Advising through iGlobal (F-1 Practical Training – STEM OPT - Report a Change of Employer E-form) within 10 days of beginning new employment. International Advising will update SEVIS; the SEVP Portal cannot be used for this update.
 - Loss of employment – notify International Advising through iGlobal (F-1 Practical Training – STEM OPT – Upload a Self-Evaluation). This e-form will ask you for the final evaluation and the employment end date. This must be done within 10 days of losing your employment. International Advising will update SEVIS.
 - I-983 changes or deviations – submit an updated training plan International Advising at unointladvising@unomaha.edu and specify what changed. International Advising will update SEVIS, if necessary.



After STEM OPT is Granted Reporting Requirements Six Month Report

- The student must report to an international student advisor every six months confirming (even if there have been no changes):
 - Legal name
 - Residential or local/current address
 - Employment information
- This requirement is extended if you are under the cap-gap extension.
- Submit the six month report in iGlobal (F-1 Practical Training – STEM OPT – Six Month Report).



After STEM OPT is Granted Reporting Requirements Self-Evaluations

#1 - You must complete a self-evaluation of your performance, according to your training plan, within the first 12 months of your STEM OPT. It is due no later than 10 days after your first year of STEM OPT ends.

#2 - You must also complete a final self-evaluation at the end of your STEM OPT. It is due no later than 10 days after your second year of STEM OPT ends.

You and your employer must sign the evaluation and submit it to International Advising using iGlobal – F-1 Practical Training – STEM OPT - Upload a Self-Evaluation E-form.



Resources

- International Programs Student Portal: iGlobal: <https://iglobal.nebraska.edu>
- SEVP Help Hub: <http://studyinthestates.dhs.gov>
- STEM LIST: <https://www.ice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Document/2016/stem-list.pdf>
- Form I-983: <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/i983.pdf>
- Form I-765: <http://www.uscis.gov/i-765>
- USCIS Processing Times: <https://egov.uscis.gov/processing-times/>
- USCIS Tools (check case status, change address): [Tools | USCIS](#)
- Study in the States: <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov>



International Advising

International Advisors are available to answer questions about applying for OPT by email or by appointment in person or on zoom.



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