STEM OPT Extension
Online Workshop

Emory International Student and Scholar Services
Topics Covered in this Workshop

- STEM OPT Eligibility
- Eligible STEM OPT Employment
- When to Apply
- Application Process
- Form I-983
- Form I-765
- Application Materials Checklist
- Mail Your Application to USCIS
- Notification of Receipt and Approval
- Reporting Requirements
- International Travel
- Reminders
- Resources

*Anchor links are no longer supported on iOS systems. Please move forward through the slides if you are on an Apple device.
STEM OPT Eligibility
Who is eligible for STEM OPT extension?

You are eligible for STEM OPT extension if you:

- Are currently in F-1 student status;
- Are currently participating in post-completion OPT;
- Have a STEM-designated degree from an SEVP-certified, accredited US college or university; and,
- Will be employed by an employer that is registered in E-Verify and agrees to complete an I-983 Training Plan with you and to comply with the USCIS employer reporting requirements.
STEM OPT Eligibility

“

You are currently in F-1 student status.


This means you have maintained your F-1 status during your period of post-completion OPT.

For example, you have:

• Reported changes to your employment information and address;
• Worked in jobs directly related to your field of study, and,
• Not exceeded 90 days of unemployment.
STEM OPT Eligibility

“You are currently participating in post-completion OPT.”

• USCIS will accept your application for STEM OPT extension up to 90 days before the end date of your post-completion OPT period.

• USCIS will **NOT** accept your application for STEM OPT extension after your post-completion OPT period ends.

• **Tip:** Look at your EAD card and determine your post-completion OPT end date.
“You have a STEM-designated degree from an SEVP-certified, accredited US college or university.”

- Your major is listed on the DHS’ STEM Designated Degree Program List.
- Designation is determined by the CIP code assigned to your major.
- At Emory, codes are assigned by your academic department and the Office of the Provost.
- Your STEM degree may be your recently earned Emory degree or a previously earned degree.
- You may be eligible for STEM OPT up to two times.
- **Tip:** Find you major’s CIP code on page 1 of your I-20 next to the name of your major.
"You will be employed by an employer that is registered in E-Verify and agrees to complete an I-983 Training Plan with you and to the USCIS employer reporting requirements."

This means that you have a job or a job offer with an employer that:

- Is registered in E-Verify;
- Agrees to complete the I-983 Training Plan with you; and,
- Agrees to comply with the USCIS employer reporting requirements and site visits.
Eligible STEM OPT Employment
Eligible STEM OPT Employment

**What kind of employment is permitted during STEM OPT extension?**

During STEM OPT, your work must be:

- Directly related to your STEM degree;
- Paid and full-time, (21 or more hours per week); and,
- A bona-fide employer-employee relationship.
Eligible STEM OPT Employment

- Volunteer or unpaid positions and self-employment do **NOT** qualify as valid STEM OPT employment.

- You may work for more than one employer, but all jobs must be at least 21 hours per week, paid, and directly related to your STEM degree.

- Third Party Employers and Staffing Agencies present a special issue. Your I-983 training plan must be signed by the E-Verify employer that is providing your practical training. A placement or staffing agency cannot complete your I-983 **unless you will be working directly for such an agency and that agency is providing your training.**
When to Apply
**When to Apply**

- You can submit your I-765 application for STEM OPT to USCIS up to 90 days before the end date of your post-completion OPT period.

- USCIS will **NOT** accept your application for STEM OPT extension **after** your post-completion OPT period ends.

- USCIS takes approximately 90 days to process an I-765 application.

- You can continue working up to 180 days after your post-completion OPT ends while your I-765 application for STEM OPT is pending with USCIS.
Application Process
Application Process

**Step 1.** Confirm you reported all your post-completion OPT employment in [ISSS Link](#).

**Step 2.** View the STEM OPT Extension Online Workshop.

**Step 3.** Complete an I-983 Training Plan with your STEM OPT employer and a draft of your I-765 application for STEM OPT.

**Step 4.** Submit the STEM OPT Extension Request e-form in [ISSS Link](#).

**Step 5.** Receive your STEM OPT I-20 from Emory ISSS.

**Step 6.** Gather your application materials and assemble your I-765 application packet.

**Step 7.** Mail your I-765 application packet to USCIS for processing.
Application Process

• Allow up to 10 business days for ISSS to process your STEM OPT Extension e-form.

• ISSS will notify you by email when your STEM OPT I-20 is available.

• You or someone you authorize may pick up your STEM OPT I-20 at the ISSS office during regular business hours. Or you may purchase an express shipping label so that ISSS can mail your I-20 to you.

• **IMPORTANT:** USCIS must receive your I-765 application for STEM OPT within 60 days of the issue date of your STEM OPT I-20.

• **Tip:** Your I-20’s issue date is on page 1 next to your DSO’s signature.
Your CIP code is located on page 1 of your I-20, next to the name of your major.

Select “Yes” if you are applying based on a previously earned STEM degree.

Your SEVIS school code and SEVIS ID number are located on your I-20.

Your USCIS# located on your post-completion OPT EAD card.

This is the USCIS# located on your post-completion OPT EAD card.

Select “No” if you are applying for STEM OPT based on your most recently earned degree from Emory.
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:

1. I have reviewed, understand, and will adhere to this Training Plan for STEM OPT Students (“Plan”);

2. 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;

3. 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;

4. My practical training opportunity is directly related to the STEM degree that qualifies me for the STEM OPT extension; and

5. 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): ________________________

Sign and date here. Digital signatures are not accepted.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employer Name:</th>
<th>Emory University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employer Website URL:</td>
<td><a href="http://www.emory.edu">www.emory.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer ID Number (EIN):</td>
<td>00-0000000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPT Hours Per Week (must be at least 20 hours/week):</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start Date of Employment (mm-dd-yyyy):</td>
<td>06/01/2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SECTION 3: EMPLOYER INFORMATION (Completed by Employer)**

List the date you will begin employment with this employer during your requested STEM OPT period, not during your post-completion OPT period.

EIN is not the same as E-Verify number. EINs are 9 digits long and can be obtained from your STEM OPT employer HR representative.

Search your industry NAICS code at: [https://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/](https://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/)

Street Address: 201 Dowman Dr.
City: Atlanta
State: GA
ZIP Code: 30322

Number of Full-Time Employees in U.S.:
North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Code:
SECTION 4: EMPLOYER 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 on behalf of the employer that this Training Plan for STEM OPT Students (“Plan”) is approved and that:

1. I have reviewed and understand this Plan, and I will ensure that the supervising Official follows this Plan;

2. I will notify the DSO at the earliest available opportunity regarding any material changes to this Plan, including but not limited to, any change of Employer Identification Number resulting from a corporate restructuring, any 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 a student engages in a STEM training opportunity, and any decrease in hours below the 20-hours-per-week minimum required under this rule;

3. Within five business days of the termination or departure of the student during the authorized period of OPT, I will report such termination or departure to the DSO (Note: business days do not include federal holidays or weekend days; and an employer shall consider a student to have departed when the employer knows the student has left the practical training opportunity, or when the student has not reported for practical training for a period of five consecutive business days without the consent of the employer); and

4. I will adhere to all applicable regulatory provisions that govern this program (see 8 CFR Part 214), which include, but are not limited to, the following:
   a. The student’s practical training opportunity is directly related to the STEM degree that qualifies the student for the STEM OPT extension, and the position offered to the student achieves the objectives of his or her participation in this training program;
   b. The student will receive on-site supervision and training, consistent with this Plan, by experienced and knowledgeable staff;
   c. The employer has sufficient resources and personnel to provide the specified training program set forth in this Plan, and the employer is prepared to implement that program, including at the location(s) identified in this Plan;
   d. The student on a STEM OPT extension will not replace a full- or part-time, temporary or permanent U.S. worker. The terms and conditions of the STEM practical training opportunity—including duties, hours, and compensation—are commensurate with the terms and conditions applicable to the employer’s similarly situated U.S. workers or, if the employer does not employ and has not recently employed more than two similarly situated U.S. workers in the area of employment, the terms and conditions of other similarly situated U.S. workers in the area

Note: DHS may, at its discretion, conduct a site visit of the employer to ensure that program requirements are being met, including that the employer possesses and maintains the ability and resources to provide structured and guided work-based learning experiences consistent with this Plan.

Signature of Employer Official with Signatory Authority: ________________________________

Printed Name and Title of Employer Official with Signatory Authority: ________________________________

Date (mm-dd-yyyy): ________________________________  Printed Name of Employing Organization: ________________________________

Employer Official signs and dates here. Digital signatures are not accepted.
Enter the address of the physical location where you will be working. It may be different from the employer address listed in section 3.

This section should describe how your STEM OPT training opportunity relates to your STEM degree.

This section should describe how your training duties relate to your learning goals.
**Employer Oversight:** Explain how the employer provides oversight and supervision of individuals filling positions such as that being filled by the named F-1 student. If the employer has a training program or related policy in place that controls such oversight and supervision, please describe.

This section should describe how your STEM OPT employer will oversee and supervise your training and progress toward your goals.

**Measures and Assessments:** Explain how the employer measures and confirms whether individuals filling positions such as that being filled by the named F-1 student are acquiring new knowledge and skills. If the employer has a training program or related policy in place that controls such measures and assessments, please describe.

This section should describe how your STEM OPT employer will assess your progress.
SECTION 6: EMPLOYER OFFICIAL 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.

Employer Official with Signatory Authority - I certify that:

1. I have reviewed, understand, and will follow this Training Plan for STEM OPT Students (Plan);
2. I will conduct the required periodic evaluations of the student;*
3. I will adhere to all applicable regulatory provisions that govern this program (see 8 CFR Part 214.2(f)(10)(ii)); and
4. I will notify the DSO regarding any material changes to or material deviations from this Plan at the earliest available opportunity, including if I believe the student is not receiving appropriate training as delineated in this Plan.

Signature of Employer Official with Signatory Authority: ____________________________________________

Printed Name and Title of Employer Official with Signatory Authority: ________________________________________________

Date (mm-dd-yyyy): _____________________

Employer Official signs and dates here. Digital signatures are not accepted.
Leave this section blank. You will complete this section at the end of your STEM OPT period and if you leave a STEM OPT employer before your STEM OPT period ends.

ISSS will notify you by email when your 12-month and final self-evaluations are due.
Read the USCIS instructions for Form I-765 located at www.uscis.gov/i-765.

It is best to type your answers on the I-765.

Use **black ink** if you write on the form.

You may upload a draft of your I-765 to the STEM OPT Extension e-form in ISSS Link if you would like your ISSS advisor to provide feedback.
Select "Renewal of my permission to accept employment."
Form I-765: 
Page 1

**Part 2. Information About You**

**Your Full Legal Name**

1.a. Family Name (Last Name)  
   Dooley

1.b. Given Name (First Name)  
   Claire

1.c. Middle Name  
   N/A

**Other Names Used**

Provide all other names you have ever used, including aliases, maiden name, and nicknames. If you need extra space to complete this section, use the space provided in Part 6. 

Additional Information.

2.a. Family Name (Last Name)  

2.b. Given Name (First Name)  

2.c. Middle Name

3.a. Family Name (Last Name)  

3.b. Given Name (First Name)  

3.c. Middle Name

4.a. Family Name (Last Name)  

4.b. Given Name (First Name)  

4.c. Middle Name

**Item 1.a - c.** Enter your names as they appear on your passport and F-1 visa.

**Item 2 - 4.** Enter other names you have used including aliases, maiden name, and nicknames.

Use Part 6. Additional Information if you need more space.
Item 5.a. - e. Enter a valid US mailing address. You may list a residence, Post Office Box, or commercial address.

The address should be valid at least 4 months from the date you submit your application to USCIS.

If you list an address other than your own, complete the “In Care of Name” field.

Your EAD will be sent to this address.

You may choose to enter the Emory ISSS mailing address in Item 5:

Emory University - ISSS
1784 N. Decatur Rd., Suite 130
Atlanta, GA 30322

Your U.S. Mailing Address

5.a. In Care Of Name (if any)
Emory University - ISSS

5.b. Street Number and Name
1784 N Decatur Rd

5.c. □ Apt.  X Ste.  □ Flr.  130

5.d. City or Town
Atlanta

5.e. State  GA  5.f. ZIP Code  30322

(USPS ZIP Code Lookup)

6. Is your current mailing address the same as your physical address?

□ Yes  X No

NOTE: If you answered “No” to Item Number 6, provide your physical address below.
Item 7.a - e. Enter your US residential address if you answered “No” to Item 6.

What to do if your US residential address changes while your application is pending with USCIS:

Within 10 calendar days of your address change update your address in your ISSS Link account, and notify [USCIS](https://www.uscis.gov).
12. Have you previously filed Form I-765?

- Yes [X]
- No [ ]

13.a. Has the Social Security Administration (SSA) ever officially issued a Social Security card to you?

- Yes [ ]
- No [X]

**NOTE:** If you answered “No” to Item Number 13.a., skip to Item Number 14. If you answered “Yes” to Item Number 13.a., provide the information requested in Item Number 13.b.

Item 12. Enter “Yes” because you completed the I-765 when you applied for post-completion OPT.

Item 13.a. If you have an SSN, enter “Yes” and then complete Item 13.b.

If you do not have an SSN, enter “No” and go to Item 14.
Item 21.a. Enter your current I-94 number here.

Retrieve your most current I-94 at https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/

Item 21.b. – 26. Refer to your current I-94, your current passport, and your current Emory I-20 to help you complete these fields.
Item 27. Enter your eligibility category like this:

(c) (3) (C)

Item 28.a. Enter your degree level and major. You may need to handwriting this in.

Item 28.b. – c. Enter your STEM OPT employer’s name as listed in E-Verify and the employer’s E-Verify number.

E-Verify number is not the same as EIN number. You will need to request the E-Verify number from your STEM OPT employer.

Items 29 – 31.b. do not apply to STEM OPT applicants.
Complete Items 1 – 6 in Part 3.

Read the section, Applicant’s Declaration and Certification.

Items 7.a. – b. Sign your signature and date.

Digital, typed, and stamped signatures are NOT acceptable.
Part 6. Additional Information

If you need extra space to provide any additional information within this application, use the space below. If you need more space than what is provided, you may make copies of this page to complete and file with this application or attach a separate sheet of paper. Type or print your name and A-Number (if any) at the top of each sheet; indicate the Page Number, Part Number, and Item Number to which your answer refers; and sign and date each sheet.

1.a. Family Name (Last Name) ____________________________
1.b. Given Name (First Name) ____________________________
1.c. Middle Name ____________________________
3.a. Page Number ▶ 3.b. Part Number ▶ 3.c. Item Number ▶
3.d. ▶
Application Materials Checklist

- $410 I-765 application filing fee
- 2 US-style passport photos
- Form G-1145 (optional)
- Completed I-765
- Copy of signed STEM OPT I-20
- Official transcript for your STEM-eligible degree
- Copy of post-completion OPT EAD (front and back)
- Current I-94
- Copy of passport identification page and extension page, if applicable
- Copy of most recently issued F-1 visa stamp (except citizens of Canada and Bermuda)
- Copies of all previous I-20s
- Copies of any other previous EADs
$410 I-765 Application Filing Fee

You can pay the fee with a personal check, cashier’s check, and money order.

ISSSS recommends using a personal check or cashier’s check as these forms of payment can be tracked and are more secure.

Make checks and money orders payable to: US Department of Homeland Security.

Write your I-94 number in the memo section of your check.

Do not use a starter check.
How to Write a Check

Claire Dooley
100 Hamill St.
Oxford, GA  30354

Pay to the order of: ___US Department of Homeland Security_____

Four hundred ten and 00/100 ___________________________ Dollars

Your Bank Name
Bank Address

Memo _____Write your I-94 # here_____    ____Claire Dooley_____

___Date___  $410.00
Application Materials Checklist

**US-Style Passport Photos**

- Photos should be less than 30 days old.
- Photos cannot be the same photo used for passport, visa, or previous EAD.
- Photos must be 2 inches by 2 inches.
- White background only
- Neutral expression only
- Eyes and ears must be visible
- No glasses or eyewear
- See US Department of State passport photo requirements online.

Lightly write your full name and I-94 number on the back of each photo.
Application Materials Checklist

• Copies included in your I-765 application packet should be single-sided.

• Do not staple your materials.

• **Exception:** Staple your check for the I-765 application filing fee to page 1 of your I-765 application form.

• Proofread your I-765 application form to ensure spellings and information are correct.

• Remember to sign your STEM OPT I-20 and your I-765 application form.
Mail Your Application to USCIS
Mail Your Application to USCIS

You will mail your I-765 application packet to USCIS.

- **IMPORTANT**: USCIS must receive your packet within 60 days of the issue date of your STEM OPT I-20 and before the end date of your post-completion OPT period.

- Find the address where you should mail your packet at [www.uscis.gov/i-765](http://www.uscis.gov/i-765).

- There are two USCIS address options:
  - One address is for packets mailed via United States Postal Service, and
  - Another address is for packets mailed via express delivery service such as FedEx, UPS, and DHL.
Mail Your Application to USCIS

- The mailing address that you list on your I-765 should be valid at least 4 months into the future from the date USCIS receives your I-765 application.

- USCIS will mail your notices of receipt and approval and your STEM OPT EAD to the mailing address you listed on your I-765.

- You may choose to use the Emory ISSS mailing address:

  - Mail Stop 1784 001 1AV
  1784 N. Decatur Rd., Suite 130
  Atlanta, GA 30322
Notification of Receipt and Approval
Notification of Receipt and Approval

I-797C, Notice of Action

USCIS will mail an I-797C to the mailing address listed on your I-765 to notify you that your I-765 application for STEM OPT was received.

- This notice should arrive within approximately 4 to 6 weeks after USCIS receives your I-765.

- **Receipt Date** – Your I-797C will list the date USCIS received your I-765. The 90-day processing time of your I-765 begins on this date.

- **Receipt Number** – This is a 13-digit number listed on your I-797C that you can use to track the status of your I-765 application at [https://egov.uscis.gov/casestatus/landing.do](https://egov.uscis.gov/casestatus/landing.do).

- **Tip:** Confirm that the spelling of your name and date of birth are correct on your I-797C. Call the USCIS Contact Center if a correction is needed.
I-797, Notice of Approval

USCIS may mail an I-797 to the mailing address listed on your I-765 to notify you that your I-765 application for STEM OPT was approved.

- This notice from USCIS should arrive within approximately 90 days of the receipt date listed on your I-797C.

- Your EAD for STEM OPT should arrive within approximately 2 weeks after your Notice of Approval.

- Remember these times are approximations. Actual notification and approval times may be longer or shorter.

- **Tip:** Confirm the spelling of your name and other information is correct on your EAD. Call the USCIS Contact Center if a correction is needed.
Notification of Receipt and Approval

Request for Evidence
Occasionally USCIS will mail a Request for Evidence (RFE) if additional information is needed to process an I-765 application.

What to do if you receive an RFE:

• Note the date a response is due to USCIS.

• Notify your ISSS advisor by email and schedule an in-person or phone appointment with your advisor if you would like advice.

• Prior to the appointment, upload a copy of the RFE to ISSS Link using the Submit New Documents e-form.
Upload copies to ISSS Link

Remember to upload copies of these documents to your ISSS Link account after you receive them:

- I-797C, Notice of Receipt
- I-797, Notice of Approval
- EAD for STEM OPT – front and back
- Request for Evidence
Reporting Requirements
To maintain your legal F-1 status during STEM OPT, you must regularly check in with ISSS to validate your SEVIS information and report changes.

You must report:

- Personal Information Update
- 6-Month Validation
- Self-Evaluations
- Material Changes to an Existing Form I-983
- Changing Employers
- Unemployment
- Employer Noncompliance
Reporting Requirements

**Personal Information Update**

You must report in ISSS Link within 10 calendar days:

- Change of US residential address
- Name change
- Non-immigrant status
- Ending employment

**6-Month Validation**

Every six months you must confirm the following information:

- Legal name
- Residential or mailing address
- Employer name and address
- Status of current employment
- *ISSS will email you a reminder with instructions.*
Reporting Requirements

Self-Evaluations
You must complete at least two self-evaluations during your STEM OPT period.

- **12-Month Self-Evaluation**
  - This evaluation covers from the start date of your STEM OPT thru 12 months after that date.

- **24-Month Self-Evaluation**
  - This evaluation covers the second 12 months of your STEM OPT and is due at the end of your STEM OPT period.

- **Final Self-Evaluation**
  - This evaluation is due if you leave an employer during your STEM OPT period.

- Submit evaluations within 10 days of the end of each period.

- **ISSS will email you a reminder with instructions for the 12-month and 24-month self-evaluations.**
**Material Changes**

Report in ISSS Link any material changes to the information on your I-983 Training Plan and upload an updated I-983.

Material changes include, but are not limited to:

- Any change of the employer’s EIN,
- Any reduction in compensation that is not tied to a reduction in hours worked,
- Any significant decrease in hours worked per week,
- Change of address of your work site,
- Changes to your employer’s commitments or your learning objectives as documented on the Form I-983.
Reporting Requirements

Changing Employers
At least 10 calendar days prior to beginning work with a new employer, submit the following to ISSS Link:

- A STEM OPT employment update with the last date of employment at your previous job and the start date and employer details of your new employment
- A completed I-983 Final Self-Evaluation for the job you left
- A new completed I-983 for your new employment

Unemployment
When you leave an employer, you must report the last date of employment in ISSS Link within 10 calendar days.

- STEM OPT allows an additional 60 days (which includes weekends and holidays) of unemployment.
- Any unused 90-day unemployment allowance from your initial period of post-completion OPT rolls over to your STEM OPT period for a potential combined total of 150 days of allowed unemployment.
Reporting Requirements

**Employer Noncompliance**

If you believe that your STEM OPT employer is not complying with the terms and conditions of the 24-month STEM OPT extension regulations, the Form I-983 instructions, and the completed Form I-983 on file with ISSS, you may:

- Contact the Student and Exchange Visitor Program at the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) by following the instructions found on [www.ICE.gov](http://www.ICE.gov).
- Report violations through this Homeland Security Investigations tip submission form.

**IMPORTANT:** The Department of Homeland Security advises students to leave a noncompliant employer and report their unemployment to their ISSS advisor.

- A period of unemployment caused by an employer’s failure to comply with program requirements on its own will not affect your F-1 status as long as you report changes in employment status and adhere to the overall unemployment limits.
Employer Reporting Requirements

Your STEM OPT employer must report:

- Any voluntary or involuntary end to your employment within 5 business days by emailing isss@emory.edu

- Any unapproved absence from work for five consecutive business days within 5 business days by emailing isss@emory.edu

Also, your employer must work with you to complete an updated I-983 if there are any changes made to your STEM OPT employment details.
International Travel
To travel outside the US and re-enter as an F-1 student continuing STEM OPT, carry these documents to your US port of entry:

- Valid passport
- Valid F-1 visa (except citizens of Canada and Bermuda)
- Endorsed STEM OPT I-20
  - Remember: Travel signatures are valid for 6 months from the date the I-20 is signed.
- STEM OPT EAD card
- Proof of employment or job offer letter

**IMPORTANT:** ISSS advises against travel outside the US after your post-completion OPT end date if your I-765 for STEM OPT is still pending with USCIS.

**Tip:** Complete the Travel Information Update e-form in ISSS Link at least 10 days prior to departing the US.
Reminders
Reminders

- Your non-immigrant status during STEM OPT continues to be F-1 student.
- You must have a valid F-1 visa to re-enter the US during STEM OPT.
- ISSS continues to maintain your SEVIS I-20 record during STEM OPT.
- Travel signatures are required during STEM OPT.
- Notify ISSS if you decide to discontinue STEM OPT and depart the US.
- Be sure to mail your I-765 application for STEM OPT:
  - Within 60 days of your STEM OPT I-20 issue date;
  - No sooner than 90 days prior to your current post-completion OPT end date; and,
  - So that USCIS receives it BEFORE the end date of your current post-completion OPT period.
Resources
Resources

• Emory International Student and Scholar Services
  • www.isss.emory.edu
  • Here you will find the link to ISSS Link, your ISSS advisor contact information, and STEM OPT and travel information.

• DHS Study in the States STEM OPT Hub
  • https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/stem-opt-hub
  • Here you will find detailed information about completing the I-983, your reporting requirements, and information to assist STEM OPT employers.

• STEM Designated Degree Program List
  • See the Department of Homeland Security’s current list of STEM OPT-eligible degree program CIP codes.

• E-Verify Employer Search Tool
  • www.e-verify.gov/about-e-verify/e-verify-data/participating-employers
Have follow-up questions?
Want to talk to your ISSS advisor?
You can schedule an in-person or phone appointment with your ISSS advisor.

Thank you!