APPLYING FOR STEM EXTENSION

To qualify for 24-month STEM extension you must:
- Have been granted OPT and currently be in a valid period of OPT
- Have earned a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree from a school that is accredited by a U.S. Department of Education-recognized accrediting agency and is certified by SEVP.
- Work for an employer who meets all the requirements.
- Submit a Form I-765 Application for Employment Authorization up to 90 days before your current OPT expires and within 60 days of the date your DSO enters the request into SEVIS.

To apply for an extension, you must properly file with USCIS:
- **Form I-765** with
    - The correct application fee,
    - Your employer's name as listed in E-Verify, and
    - Your employer's E-Verify Company Identification Number or valid E-Verify Client Company Identification Number
- **Form I-20**, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status, endorsed by your DSO within the last 60 days; and
- A copy of your **STEM degree**.
- A STEM OPT student and their employer must obtain, complete and sign the **Form I-983** before the student may apply for a STEM OPT extension.

You also must submit Form I-983 to Office of International Students & Scholars via the OPT Report form which can be found on our website under Forms and Documents.
- DSO will issue you a new I-20

When you receive your new Employment Authorization Document (EAD card) you are to submit a copy to us. This can be done via the Employment Authorization Document form on our website under Forms and Documents.

If you file your STEM OPT extension application on time and your OPT period expires while your extension application is pending, USCIS will automatically extend your employment authorization for 180 days. This automatic 180-day extension ceases once USCIS adjudicates your STEM OPT extension application.