



# Things to Know About a STEM Extension

## Optional Practical Training

Students with I-20s issued under certain STEM majors are eligible to apply for a 24 month OPT extension. You can find a list of eligible STEM majors at <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/stem-opt-hub/eligible-cip-codes-for-the-stem-opt-extension>. Students must be employed and paid by a company with an E-verify number at the time of the application. Students can apply as early as 90 days before the expiration of their standard OPT but USCIS must receive the student's STEM OPT application package before the expiration of the student's current post-completion OPT. Students will need the same documents as the original OPT application and the following additional documents for OPT STEM extension:

- I-983 Training Plan
- Diploma
- Transcripts

If a student completes all course requirements for another qualifying STEM degree at a higher degree level than the first STEM qualifying degree, the student may apply for a second 24-month STEM OPT extension while in a valid period of standard post-completion OPT. A student may not be authorized for more than two *lifetime* STEM OPT extensions.