



OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL SERVICES

University Center for International Studies

University of Pittsburgh

STEM OPT & Reporting Requirements

STEM OPT Extension

Former students working on OPT may be eligible to apply for an additional 24 months of OPT if they fulfill both of the following criteria:

- You must have graduated with a STEM degree that is listed on the US Department of Homeland Security's STEM Designated Degree program list. The CIP code on the list must match the CIP code on your Form I-20 exactly.
- You must be working for an E-verify employer. This means the employer uses the E-verify system to determine employee's work eligibility. The Human Resources department of the employer can let you know if they use E-verify.

Applications for a STEM OPT extension must be received at USCIS no later than the end date of the current 12-month OPT period. The process is very similar to the OPT application process, so be sure you allow plenty of time to collect the appropriate documents. More information about STEM OPT, including instructions on how to apply, can be found in My OIS (my.ois.pitt.edu).

STEM OPT Reporting Requirements

There are specific reporting requirements for STEM OPT. We collect this information via My OIS, with a group of e-forms called 'OPT Report Participation'. Below are the different e-forms you will be required to submit while on STEM OPT:

- **New Employer/Material Change to Employment** – If you have changed jobs while on STEM OPT, you must submit this e-form, along with a newly completed Form I-983.
- **Every 6 Month Reporting Requirement** – Federal law requires you to update OIS on your employment information every 6 months from the start of your STEM OPT. Even if you have just sent us an update with new employer information recently, we must collect it again at the 6, 12, 18, and 24 month milestones.

(NOTE: 12-month and 24-month reporting will also require you to submit Page 5 of the Form I-983 with a self-evaluation of your employment.)

- **Change of Address** – As always, OIS must have your current address on file. This e-form is located under Biographical Information in the My OIS menu.