

While on OPT (initial, STEM extension, and during cap-gap relief extension), you are still in F-1 status. Accordingly, you must continue to abide by the rules and regulations governing your visa status and report required information to the Slutzker Center. Please carefully read the statements below and place a check mark in the box next to each statement. Sign at the bottom of the page. Your check marks and signature indicate your understanding and agreement to abide by the statements made.

**STEM Optional Practical Training Extension (including cap-gap relief if applicable)**

- I understand that my passport must be valid at the time of applying for a STEM extension and it is my responsibility to maintain passport validity throughout the duration of my OPT authorization.
- I understand that a 24 month STEM OPT extension will be recommended by the Slutzker Center on a new I-20 and acknowledge that this does not ensure STEM extension approval.
- I understand that I must meet all extension requirements including being employed with an employer who is part of the E-verify program in order to be granted a 24 month STEM extension.
- I understand that the USCIS may refuse to grant a STEM extension if I do not submit all of the required application materials.
- I understand that my STEM extension materials must be timely filed and received by the USCIS Service Center with jurisdiction over my current place of residence prior to my initial OPT EAD authorization end date in order to be eligible for the automatic extension of status and work authorization until a final decision on the I-765 or 180 days (whichever comes first).
- I understand that USCIS and SEVP advise against changing employers while the I-765 is pending, since the I-765 names a specific employer and that I should consult with an attorney regarding the effect of changing to an employer that is not the employer named on the I-765 while my I-765 is pending.
- I understand that I am required by current immigration regulations to report the following to the Slutzker Center within 10 days of any change of: legal name; residential or mailing address; employer name; employer address; and/or loss of employment.
- I understand that I am required by current immigration regulations to make a validation report (confirming or indicating changes to my personal and employment information) to the Slutzker Center every six months starting from the date the extension begins and ending when my F-1 status ends, I change educational levels at the same school, I transfer to another school, or my 24 month OPT extension ends, whichever is first. I also understand that the report is due to the Slutzker Center within 10 business days of each reporting date.
- I understand that I may not accrue more than 150 days of unemployment during the combined 36 months of OPT authorization (initial OPT authorization through STEM extension period).
- I understand that though I may change employers after being granted a STEM extension by USCIS, all of my employment must be in my major field of study and with an employer who is a part of the E-verify program.
- I understand that I am only authorized to work until the end date indicated on the Employment Authorization Document (EAD) issued by USCIS for my 24 month STEM extension.
- I understand that the Slutzker Center advises against traveling while my initial EAD card is expired and I have not yet received my new EAD card for my STEM extension.
- I understand that it is my responsibility to obtain a travel signature from a Slutzker Center Advisor if I am going to travel outside the U.S. while I am on OPT and also understand that a travel signature is only valid for 6 months during the OPT authorization period.
- I understand that once I receive my new EAD card, I must have proof of employment, a valid EAD card, I-20 recommending a STEM extension, valid passport and visa in order to re-enter the U.S. after international travel.
- I understand that I will be responsible for maintaining health insurance coverage for myself and dependents while engaging in practical training.

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Student Signature

Date