



## STEM OPT Extension Information

STEM (science-technology-engineering-math) OPT extension eligibility requirements:

1. Completion of NMSU degree.  
(You must submit a copy of NMSU transcript and diploma with STEM OPT extension application.)
2. Less than 90 days of unemployment during initial OPT period (calendar days).
3. Employed by an E-verify employer

If eligible for the STEM extension, complete the STEM OPT Extension Request Form and submit to International Student & Scholar Services. When the new I-20 is ready, you can request for it to be mailed to your home address. You will need to include a copy of the signed I-20 with original signature in your STEM OPT extension application packet mailed to USCIS.

### **Mailing**

Your I-765 STEM OPT extension request will be mailed to a specific USCIS Service Center based on your current address. (See attached addresses). Your STEM OPT extension packet can be submitted a maximum of 90 days prior to the end of your current OPT. The deadline for receipt of your application at USCIS is the ending date of your current OPT as stated on the EAD. If you meet this deadline you can continue working for up to 180 days pending receipt of the new EAD.

### **Check list, include in your packet:**

- \_\_\_ Original, completed [I-765 form](#)  
#27: code for STEM extension is (C)(3)(C)  
#28a-c: add degree, employer name and E-verify number
- \_\_\_ New I-20 with requested STEM extension  
\*\*Remember to sign your I-20 before sending in your application packet.  
Your new I-20 will state the name and address of your current employer.  
If you are changing employers prior to the start of your STEM extension, contact ISSS.
- \_\_\_ Copy of your NMSU transcript and diploma
- \_\_\_ Copy of current EAD
- \_\_\_ Two colored passport-style photos
- \_\_\_ Photocopy of I-94, (front & back), travel visa, and passport identification page
- \_\_\_ Check or money order for \$410 payable to U.S. Department of Homeland
- \_\_\_ Security Form G-1145 (this form is optional)

### **During your OPT extension period you need to report to ISSS if:**

1. There is a change in your home address (report any address changes within 10 days).
2. If there is a change of employment: send company name, address and starting date of this position.

It is important to remember that your OPT extension ends if you are unemployed for 90 days or if you change companies and the new employer is not an E-Verify employer.

For questions and I-765 processing contact: ISSS, [iss@nmsu.edu](mailto:iss@nmsu.edu), 575-646-2834

## STEM OPT information- Continued USCIS lockbox facilities

When filing [Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization](#), use the table below to determine which lockbox you should send your application to or visit: <https://www.uscis.gov/i-765-addresses>

Eligibility Category 8 CFR 274a.12 This is the category you selected in question 27 on Form I-	Category Description	Filing Location
(c)(3)(i) <b>SEE NOTE</b>	F-1 Optional Practical Training (OPT)  <b>NOTE:</b> Do not write (c)(3)(i) as your category on your application. Use one of the following categories instead: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(c)(3)(A), Pre-completion OPT</li> <li>(c)(3)(B), Post-completion OPT</li> <li>(c)(3)(C), 24-month extension for an F-1 student who has received a degree in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) that appears on the STEM designated Degree Program List published on the <a href="#">SEVP website</a></li> </ul>	USCIS Chicago Lockbox  <b>U.S. Postal Service (USPS):</b>  USCIS PO Box 805373 Chicago, IL 60680  <b>FedEx, UPS, and DHL deliveries:</b>  USCIS Attn: I-765 C03 131 South Dearborn - 3rd Floor Chicago, IL 60603-5517
(c)(3)(ii)	F-1 offered off-campus employment under the sponsorship of a qualifying international organization	USCIS Chicago Lockbox  <b>U.S. Postal Service (USPS):</b>  USCIS PO Box 805373 Chicago, IL 60680  <b>FedEx, UPS, and DHL deliveries:</b>  USCIS Attn: I-765 C03 131 South Dearborn - 3rd Floor Chicago, IL 60603-5517
(c)(3)(ii)	F-1 offered off-campus employment under the sponsorship of a qualifying international organization	USCIS Chicago Lockbox  <b>U.S. Postal Service (USPS):</b>  USCIS PO Box 805373 Chicago, IL 60680  <b>FedEx, UPS, and DHL deliveries:</b>  USCIS Attn: I-765 C03 131 South Dearborn - 3rd Floor Chicago, IL 60603-5517
(c)(3)(iii)	F-1 seeking off-campus employment due to severe economic hardship	USCIS Chicago Lockbox  <b>U.S. Postal Service (USPS):</b>  USCIS PO Box 805373 Chicago, IL 60680  <b>FedEx, UPS, and DHL deliveries:</b>  USCIS Attn: I-765 C03 131 South Dearborn - 3rd Floor Chicago, IL 60603-5517
(c)(5)	Spouse/dependent of J-1 exchange visitor (J-2 nonimmigrant status)	USCIS Phoenix or Dallas Lockbox, based on where you live (Go to the <a href="#">USCIS Phoenix and Dallas Lockbox facilities chart</a> for the address)



## STEM OPT Extension Request Form

### Personal information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

NMSU Aggie ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent (NON-NMSU)  
 email address: \_\_\_\_\_

SEVIS ID #: \_\_\_\_\_

Current home address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Employer Information:

Company name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor's name  
 & phone#: \_\_\_\_\_

Employment start date  
 at this company: \_\_\_\_\_

Your job title: \_\_\_\_\_

**Is there previous employment that was not reported to ISSS?**  Yes  No

Is yes, provide employment information as requested above on separate sheet.

### Conditions:

**I understand the eligibility requirements for receiving and maintaining my F-1 status during OPT.**

**I understand that it is my responsibility to immediately inform International Student & Scholar Services of any changes or updates to my employment or home address.**

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Send this form to ISSS:

This form can be emailed to [iss@nmsu.edu](mailto:iss@nmsu.edu) or mailed to  
 International Student and Scholar Services  
 New Mexico State University  
 MSC 3567, PO Box 30001  
 Las Cruces, NM 88003