Completing the Electronic STEM OPT Application
All eligible F-1 students must receive a *STEM OPT Recommendation I-20* from ISSO BEFORE submitting an online or paper STEM OPT application to USCIS. To receive the STEM OPT Recommendation I-20, please submit the STEM Optional Practical Training (OPT) STEM Extension form in CyStart under F-1 Student Services.

Do not proceed with the online STEM OPT application until you have the STEM OPT Recommendation I-20.
Create your MyUSCIS Account
Create or sign into your MyUSCIS account at myaccount.uscis.gov
Log into MyUSCIS
Select MyUSCIS to get start

- **Edit My Profile**: Editing your profile includes email, password, phone number, security questions, two-step verification and backup code.

- **Login to a USCIS Service**
  - **myUSCIS**: Apply for immigration benefits, find tools and resources to assist in preparation for naturalization, and search for doctors in your local community.
  - **FIRST**: Submit, manage and receive Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests.
  - **myE-Verify**: Confirm your records for employment eligibility, track E-Verify or Self-Check case status, and protect your identity by locking your Social Security Number (SSN).

Not sure what service you need? Start at [USCIS.gov](https://www.USCIS.gov)
Select Account Type

Select that you are an applicant, petitioner, or requestor.
What do you want to do?
Select File a Form Online
Select a form

Select Application for Employment Authorization. The electronic I-765 can be submitted by students applying for pre-completion OPT, Post-completion OPT, and STEM OPT.

Select the form you want to file online.

I-765, Application for Employment Authorization

Use this form to request employment authorization and an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) if your immigration status allows you to work in the United States.

⚠️ Note: You may apply online if your eligibility category is:
- (a)(12) - Temporary Protected Status (You are submitting an initial Form I-821 or you have an approved Form I-821);
- (c)(3)(A) - F-1 student, pre-completion OPT;
- (c)(3)(B) - F-1 student, post-completion OPT;
- (c)(3)(C) - F-1 student, 24-month extension for STEM students (students holding a degree in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics);
- (c)(19) - Temporary Protected Status (You have a pending Form I-821); or
- (c)(33) - Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) (You must have a pending or approved Form I-821D in order to file Form I-765).

All other applicants must submit a paper Form I-765.

Start form
Select your eligibility category
Select c(3)(C) Student Post-Completion OPT

What is your eligibility category?

⚠️ You can file your request online only for certain eligibility categories. If your eligibility category does not appear on the drop-down list, you must file a paper Form I-765. If you submit online and are not eligible for one of the listed categories, your application may be denied.

- c(3)(C) STEM Extension
Degree & Employer Information

Enter information about your degree level and major, such as, Master’s in Mathematics

Enter information about your employer's name listed in E-Verify, and their E-Verify number.

If you will be employed at Iowa State during your STEM OPT, Iowa State’s E-verify number is 1272655
Select Reason for Applying

ISSO recommends selecting Initial permission to accept employment when applying for the STEM extension.

Select yes to having previously filed an I-765. You will need to provide evidence of that application, including a previous OPT recommendation I-20 and previous EAD card.
Who is completing the form
Select no, if you are the person completing the form.

Is someone assisting you with completing this application?
- Yes
- No

[Back] [Next]
Name

Enter your name in the fields provided. Your name should be entered as it appears on your immigration documents.

If you have used other names, select yes, and list the other names that you have used.
Contact Information
Enter your daytime and mobile phone number, and current email address. The email address may be your ISU or personal email address

How may we contact you?

Daytime telephone number

Mobile telephone number (if any)
☐ This is the same as my daytime telephone number.

Email address
Current Mailing Address

Enter your address where you would like correspondence and your OPT EAD card to be sent to. You can use your personal address if you will have safe and secure access to receive mail there for next 3-4 months. Otherwise, we recommend using ISSO’s address.

If you enter an address that isn’t the address where you live, select no, and enter your personal address.
Personal Information
Select your gender and marital status

What is your gender?
- Male
- Female

What is your marital status?
- Single
- Married
- Divorced
- Widowed
Birth Information

Enter information about your birth as applicable

What is your city, town, or village of birth?

What is your state or province of birth?

What is your country of birth?

What is your date of birth?

* You must provide a response.
Entry Information

If you are a citizen of more than one country be sure to add that information.

Your I-94 can retrieved at i94.cbp.dhs.gov.

Your place of arrival is where you went through U.S. Customs.
Passport Information

Enter information related to your passport

What is the passport number of your most recently issued passport?

What is your travel document number (if any)?

What is the expiration date of your passport or travel document?

MM/DD/YYYY

What country issued your passport or travel document?
Immigration Status

Confirm your immigration status and SEVIS ID number.

What is your current immigration status or category?

What is your Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) Number (if any)?

Use the "Additional Information" section to include all previously used SEVIS numbers.
USCIS Numbers

Enter your A-Number or Online Account number, if applicable

Your A-Number will be the USCIS number on your previous OPT EAD card

What is your A-Number?

☐ I do not have or know my A-Number.

A-

What is your USCIS Online Account Number?

Providing your unique USCIS Online Account Number (OAN) helps us manage your account. You may already have an OAN if you previously filed certain paper forms and received an Account Access Notice in the mail. You can find the OAN at the top of the notice; it is not the same as an A-Number.

☐ I do not have or know my USCIS Online Account Number.
Has the Social Security Administration (SSA) ever officially issued a Social Security card to you?

- Yes
- No

What is your Social Security number (if known)?

123-33-4567

Do you want the SSA to issue you a Social Security card?

- Yes
- No
Passport Photo

Upload a passport photo, and make sure that it meets the requirements listed on the site.

2 X 2 Photo Of You

Upload a recent color photograph of yourself that measures 2 inches by 2 inches, with your face measuring 1 inch to 1 3/8 inch from your chin to the top of your head. Your eyes should be between 1 1/8 inch and 1 3/8 inch from the bottom of the photo.

Make sure your whole face is visible, you are facing the camera directly, and the background is white or off-white. Your head must be bare, unless contrary to your religious beliefs.

If you need help understanding the photo requirements or want to resize, rotate, or crop your photo, you can use the Department of State’s photo composition tools. Please note that we cannot approve your application without your photos.

File requirements

- Clear and readable
- Accepted file formats: JPG, JPEG, or PNG
- No encrypted or password-protected files
- If your documents are in a foreign language, upload a full English translation and the translator’s certification with each original document.
- Accepted characters: English letters, numbers, spaces, periods, hyphens, underscores, and parentheses
- Maximum size: 8MB per file

Choose or drop files here to upload
**I-94**

Upload your most recent I-94, and visa used to enter the United State.

Your I-94 can be retrieved at i94.cbp.dhs.gov.
Government ID

Upload a copy of your current passport.

If your visa is in a different passport or if you entered the U.S. on a different passport, upload a copy of that passport as well.

Upload a copy of the front and back of your Employment Authorization Document (EAD)
STEM OPT I-20

Upload a copy your STEM OPT recommendation I-20

Make sure you have signed and dated the I-20

Be sure that the STEM OPT I-20 that you are uploading on this page contains the STEM OPT recommendation on the second page for the dates that you are requesting STEM OPT. This STEM OPT I-20 would have been received from ISSO after submitting the Optional Practical Training (OPT) STEM Extension form in CyStart
STEM Eligible Degree

Upload your official transcripts and/or diploma showing that you have earned a STEM eligible degree.

Graduate students who haven’t given their oral defense yet should speak with an International Student Advisor about documentation to upload.
Previous OPT Authorization
Upload your I-20s showing previous OPT recommendations

If applying for STEM OPT based on a previously earned STEM degree, upload proof of accreditation and SEVIS certification for the university where you earned the degree.
Additional Information

Additional information will be needed in the following situations:

- Previously used OPT
- Previous SEVIS ID number
- Your current visa is in a previous passport or you entered U.S. on old passport
Previous OPT

Enter your previous OPT enter information about it including:

- Degree level
- Authorization dates
- Receipt number
Previous SEVIS ID Number

If you had a previous SEVIS ID number, add information about the previous number.
Previous Passport

If your visa is in a previous passport, you will want to include information about the passport that your visa is in.

Be sure to upload a copy of this passport in the Government ID section.
Check your application before you submit

We will review your application to check for accuracy and completeness before you submit it.

We encourage you to provide as many responses as you can throughout the application, to the best of your knowledge. Missing information can slow down the review process after you submit your application.

You can return to this page to review your application as many times as you want before you submit it.

Your fee

1. Your form filing fee is: $410

Refund Policy: USCIS does not refund fees, regardless of any action we take on your application, petition or request, or how long USCIS takes to reach a decision. By continuing this transaction, you acknowledge that you must submit fees in the exact amount and that you are paying the fees for a government service.

Alerts and warnings

1. We found no alerts or warnings in your application
STEM OPT Application
Review by ISSO
STEM OPT Application Review

Request a review of your application by ISSO before you submit your application. To have ISSO review your application, do the following:

1. Download the View Draft Snapshot.
2. Combine the View Draft Snapshot with copies of the documents that you uploaded into ONE PDF.
3. Upload the PDF into CyStart using the “OPT Application Online Review” e-form.
Submitting the Application

(After Review)
Applicant’s Statement

After having your application reviewed, confirm that you read and understood the application.
Applicant’s Declaration & Certification

Submit the application to USCIS by certifying the application and paying the application fee.

Applicant’s Declaration and Certification

You must read and agree to the certification below. If you knowingly and willfully falsify or conceal a material fact or submit a false document with your application, we can deny your application and may deny any other immigration benefit. You may also face criminal prosecution and penalties provided by the law.
After Submission
Tracking Your Application

Upon submitting your application, your receipt notice will be generated. A hard copy receipt notice will also be mailed to the mailing address you provided.