STEM EXTENSION “STEM” Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics
There are three types of Optional Practical Training (OPT): Pre-Completion OPT, Post-Completion OPT and STEM OPT Extension. This handout focuses on STEM OPT Extension.

What is STEM OPT Extension?
STEM OPT Extension is a temporary employment authorization available to eligible F-1 Students following the post-completion OPT.
A student who is eligible for the STEM OPT Extension can apply for a 17-months extension, for a maximum of 29 months of OPT if his/her degree is on the STEM Designated Degree Programs list
http://www.ice.gov/sevis/stemlist.htm

When should I apply?
We highly recommend that you submit the application packet to the International Student Services office 90 days before the end date of your current OPT application. Applications must be received by USCIS prior to the end of your current OPT authorization.

OPT Extension Period
The employment authorization period for the OPT extension begins the day after the expiration of the initial OPT employment authorization and ends 17 months later. This extension can be used only one time.

Guidelines
1. You can submit your OPT Extension paper work to ISS 90 days prior to the end of your current OPT – expiration of your EAD
2. ISS will create a new I-20 and mail it to you along with your application to be signed and sent to the Service Center
3. It will take approximately 1-2 business days to process your OPT Extension application

Documents Required for OPT Extension
1. Copy of current I-20
2. Copy of current I-94 card – front & back
3. Copy of current EAD – front & back
4. Copy of current Passport – biographic information page including expiration date
5. Completed I-765 form (included in this package) - Pay attention to Section 17, this is a new section that must be completed by you and your employer
6. Complete I-765 signature card with your signature
7. List your degree from line 5 of your I-20.
8. Your employer must enter the information from E-Verify
9. Processing fee of $380. Money Order or personal check made payable to U.S. Department of Homeland Security (Do not use initials as this will appear on your bank statement as an Electronic Fund Transfer)
10. 2 Photographs
11. Proof of degree in the form of an official transcript, unofficial transcript or diploma
Student responsibilities
1. Maintain your current address, phone, and e-mail with ISS throughout the OPT period.
2. Maintain your employer information with ISS throughout the OPT period.
3. Report termination of OPT employment to ISS within 48 hours of the time you no longer employed.
4. You may not accrue a total of more than 90 days of unemployment during regular OPT and a maximum of 120 days between regular and extended OPT.

Once your documents are reviewed by the International advisor, they will be mailed to:

USCIS Phoenix Lockbox
P.O. Box 21281
Phoenix, AZ, 85036

What if I move or change employers while I am engaging in the OPT extension? 
You are required by the Department of Homeland Security to notify ISS of any address changes, name changes, and changes of employer and/or employer address within 10 days of the change. We will then notify Immigration for you.

**Remember if you change employers, your new employer must be enrolled in the E-verify program before you can begin working for them.**

What other requirements must I follow while on the OPT extension?
You must verify your name, address, and employer information every 6 months with ISS.

What do I do when my OPT ends?
Immigration regulations states that you have 60 days from the end date of the authorized OPT period to:
- Be in the process of changing to another visa status.
- Have an I-20 for the next upcoming semester to begin a new academic program.
- Leave the United States.
STUDENT INFORMATION

Last Name:_________________________ FirstName:_________________________
Student ID:________________________ SEVISID:__________________________
H1b Receipt Number (if applicable):_________________________________________
Current Address Line 1:___________________________________________________
Current Address Line 2:___________________________________________________
City:__________________________ State:________________________ Zip Code:____________________
Email Address:_________________________ Phone Number:_______________________
Degree Earned:_________________________ Graduation Date:_______________________

EMPLOYER INFORMATION

Employer Name:___________________________________________________________
Start date with this employer:_______________________________________________
Address Line 1:___________________________________________________________
Address Line 2:___________________________________________________________
City:__________________________ State:________________________ Zip Code:____________________
Employer’s E-Verify ID:____________________________________________________
Job Title/Position:________________________________________________________
Supervisor’s Name:_______________________________________________________
Supervisor’s Phone Number:_______________________________________________
Print Name:_____________________________________________________________
Student Signature:________________________________________________________
Today’s Date:____________________________________________________________