

HOW TO APPLY FOR THE STEM OPT EXTENSION

OPT is an opportunity for F-1 international students to gain work experience related to their academic program. Students in F-1 status may receive up to one year (12 months) of OPT per degree level. OPT consists of three categories, each requiring separate authorization by USCIS:

1. Pre-Completion OPT: Takes place during your academic program
2. Post-Completion OPT: Takes place after the completion of your academic program
3. **24-month STEM Extension: available ONLY to students with degrees in STEM fields who are currently working on Post-Completion OPT for an E-Verify company in a position relating to STEM degree**

To review the STEM OPT Extension Online Training Module apply for the STEM OPT extension, please access the link below:

<http://www.marshall.edu/iss/stemopttraining>

Once you are ready to apply online, please be sure that you indicate which type of OPT you are applying for in your application.

Please allow 3 – 5 business days for processing your application. Once ISS receives all documents, we will review them and issue the I-20 recommending the STEM OPT Extension. We will then contact you with next steps. If you do not receive notification in a timely manner, please contact the Office of International Student Services at iss@marshall.edu.

REVIEW THESE 10 EASY STEPS FOR APPLYING FOR OPT

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- Step 1:** Review the OPT Training Module slides thoroughly.
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- Step 2:** Prepare all necessary documents and review important links.
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- Step 3:** Determine how you will apply for OPT: You may apply online or register for an OPT forms session (if applicable).
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- Step 4:** Complete the OPT Application & Acknowledgement form on your own or in a forms session.
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- Step 5:** Submit OPT documents to iss@marshall.edu
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- Step 6:** Wait for an email from the Office of International Student Services
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- Step 7:** Receive and sign your TWO new I-20s recommending OPT
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- Step 8:** Finalize your OPT application documents
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- Step 9:** Mail your OPT application documents to USCIS
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- Step 10:** Wait for your EAD card to arrive
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