



## 24-MONTH STEM OPT EXTENSION FOR STUDENTS IN F-1 STATUS APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The earliest you can submit your [24-Month STEM OPT Extension Request for Students in F-1 Status](#) is 90 days before your OPT end date.

You must file your STEM OPT application before your current post-completion OPT (standard or cap-gap) expires, and you must be in the U.S. at the time of filing. An updated Form I-20 issued by a University of Miami Designated School Official (ISSS Advisor) is one of the required documents to e-file your *Form I-765 | Application for Employment Authorization*. Please ensure you have obtained and signed your new I-20 before you submit your STEM OPT application to USCIS. Click [here](#) for a comprehensive timeline of the [OPT STEM Application and Approval Process](#).

1. Prepare the following documents for digital upload of your electronically filed *Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization*:
  - a) **Form I-983**. For assistance in completing *Form I-983*, please see [Form I-983 Instructions](#)
  - b) **Most recent Form I-94**. Go to [Get Most Recent I-94](#)
  - c) **Copy of passport biographical page**
  - d) **Copy of passport page with F-1 visa**
  - e) **Copy of passport page with last entry stamp** (if one was given)
  - f) **Copy of Previously Issued EAD(s)**
  - g) **Copy of STEM Degree Diploma**
  - h) **Official STEM Degree Transcript**
  - i) **Copies of all previously issued SEVIS Forms I-20** Do not submit these copies to ISSS. You will need to include them in your application to USCIS.
2. Submit your 24-Month STEM OPT Extension Request to ISSS by clicking on [www.miami.edu/stemoptrequest](http://www.miami.edu/stemoptrequest).
3. Upon receipt of a completed request form, an ISSS advisor will review your application and, if eligible, issue and email you a new Form I-20, indicating on page 2 that STEM OPT was requested.
4. Once you have received your new Form I-20, refer to [How to File a Form Online](#) for tips for filing forms online, including acceptable upload formats, how to upload passport-size photos, and how to pay the filing fee.
5. Go to [uscis.gov](http://uscis.gov) and follow the instructions under "File Online". The first step is to create your USCIS account.

