The University of Mississippi

INTRODUCTION TO PRACTICAL TRAINING
OPT

OPT provides authorization for temporary employment for practical training **directly related** to the student's major area of study as listed on the I-20

Approval process involves you, your department, the Office of International Programs and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service

OPT

- [x] Available only to college, university, conservatory and seminary students with F-1 status
- [x] English language training students are not eligible
- [x] Must have been enrolled full time at a DHS approved school for at least an academic year
- [ ]

OPT Options

- **Pre-completion OPT** - only available during the degree program

- **Post-completion OPT** – start date occurs after program is completed or after all requirements are met exclusive of thesis/ dissertation

- **STEM OPT Extensions** - available for certain Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) students.

- **Cap Gap OPT extension**- available to some based on the filing of an H1b application

Pre-completion OPT

- Start and end dates must be before program end date
- Limited to 20 hours/week while school is in session if student has coursework remaining
- Part time pre-completion OPT is deducted from the 1 year allowance for OPT at a half rate (ex. 12 months of part time pre-completion OPT means the student has 6 more months of full time OPT eligibility)
- Can be full time during breaks and for students who have finished all requirements exclusive of thesis/dissertation
- Must maintain a full course of study when done during the normal academic year. Those who have completed all coursework must make progress toward completion of the required thesis/dissertation
- When done during the annual vacation, the student must intend to register in the next available term.
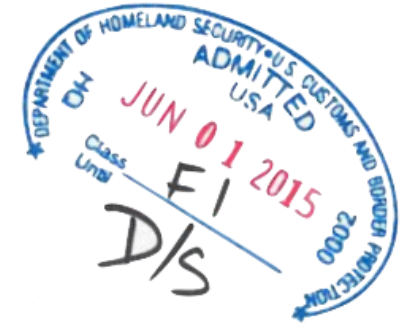
Post-completion OPT

- **OPT start date must be after the I-20 program end date**
- **Also available to students who have completed all requirements exclusive of thesis/dissertation**

Post Completion OPT

- Eligible for maximum of 12 months for each higher level of degree completed (example: master's after bachelor's or PhD after master's = additional 12 months of post completion OPT)
- Not eligible for OPT if one year of full time CPT was used

Employment

What work can you do during 12- month Post Completion OPT?

- Any – As long as it:
    - Is related to <u>YOUR</u> field and level of study
    - Paid, unpaid, volunteer, contract

Job title doesn't matter…

BUT the nature of the work does

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Unemployment Limit

- Because no job offer needed to apply, you may search for employment during OPT

- You may not accrue more than 90 days of unemployment during the 12 months of OPT…

If more than 90 days, OPT and F status ends.

OPT Application Process

˅Scholars

^Current Students

- **Affidavit of Financial Support**
- **Curricular Practical Training Application Packet**
- **How To Apply For A Social Security Number**
- **Information Update Form**
- **Intensive English Program Student Extension of Stay**
- **Request Form**
- **SEVIS Transfer Out**

˅F-1

˅J-1

^OPT - Optional Practical Training

- **Optional Practical Training Pre-Completion and Post-Completion Application Packet**
- **STEM OPT Application Packet**(Students interested in the STEM OPT extension need to complete the STEM Extension Application, G-1145, Form I-765, OPT reporting and Form I-983)
- **Form G-1145** (to be submitted with OPT application)
- **Form I-765** (to be submitted with OPT application)
- **OPT Reporting** (to be mailed to ipdept@olemiss.edu)
- Form **I-983**

- ▶ **About What OIP Does**
- ▶ **Contact Us**
- ▶ **Forms Carousel**
- ▶ **Picture Gallery**
- ▶ **Staff Directory**

Office of International Programs
331 Martindale
University, MS 38677
Phone: **(662) 915-7404**
Fax: **(662) 915-7486**
E-mail: **ipdept@olemiss.edu**

OFFICE OF
**INTERNATIONAL
PROGRAMS**
UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

OPT Department Recommendation
MUST BE FILLED OUT BY DEPARTMENT

Optional Practical Training (OPT) is a benefit of F-1 status which allows degree seeking students to apply for work authorization in order to gain employment experience that is directly related to their field of study. OPT applications are specific in that they have start and end dates, are authorized for either part time or full time work and are considered either pre-completion or post completion (of study) petitions.

Applications for OPT involve the student, the academic department, the Office of International Programs (OIP) and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS). When an application is approved, USCIS mails the student an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) which contains the student's photograph, OPT category and the dates of authorized employment.

Please complete the following to assist in the completion of this request for OPT status:

Student's Name: _____

ID Number: _____

Degree Level: _____

Major: _____

Expected Completion Date: _____

Signature of Academic Advisor or Department Chair:

_____

Printed Name: _____

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OPT Student Application

Last Name: _____   First Name: _____

Ole Miss ID #: _____   SEVIS ID #: _____

Degree Level: _____   Date of completion (M/D/Y): _____ / _____ / _____

Major: _____

Previous CPT or OPT approved for this degree level. List dates and type (full or part-time):

_____

I am applying for :   ☐ **Pre-completion OPT**   ☐ **Part-time**   ☐ **Full-time**

☐ **Post-completion OPT** (must sign Post-Completion Agreement)

Requested Start Date: _____ / _____ / _____   Requested End Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Signature: _____

Phone: _____

Permanent Email: _____

*Please do not list @go.olemiss.edu address. Check this email often for updates from our office.

Required Documents Checklist (Bring to OIP):

Do Not Staple Any Pages

☐ Completed Form G-1145 (to receive receipt notice by text and email)

☐ Completed Student Application Form

☐ Completed Form I-765 **use black ink** (see attached)
   key: question 27, for pre-completion OPT use code **(c)(3)(a)** or for post-completion OPT use code **(c)(3)(b)**

☐ Completed Department Recommendation **(completed by department)**

☐ Completed Post-OPT Agreement

☐ Photocopies of passport info page, most recent visa, and I-94 arrival document (**print from online**)

☐ Two passport-style photos **(must match attached requirements and dimensions exactly)**

☐ Check or money order for $410 made payable to **Department of Homeland Security,** write "OPT Application" in the memo line **(Checks must have pre-printed name and address)**

➢ **If mailing OPT application yourself, please see an OIP advisor for instructions**

OIP will review the application and produce an I-20 with the OPT recommendation. You will be sent an email requesting that you come to sign the new I-20. The application (including a copy of the signed I-20) must be received by USCIS no later than 30 days after the date the I-20 was produced or 60 days after completion of the program, whichever is earlier.

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1848

Department of Homeland Security

Print and sign your name

Your address

Tear off this part and keep it

Pictures

- Walgreens, CVS, Walmart and the Study Abroad Office in Martindale

Study Abroad Office

$10 must pay in cash or with check or money order

- Requested start date can be as early as the day after program completion and as late as 60 days after program completion

When To Apply for OPT

Timing is everything when applying for OPT!

- For *Pre-*/Post-Completion OPT you may apply **no earlier than 90 days** before you *become enrolled full-time for an academic year* /complete your degree program

- USCIS will accept applications **as late as 60 days post-graduation** for Post-Completion OPT only

Official website of the Department of Homeland Security

Homeland Security

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SEARCH THE SEVIS HELP

BACK TO STUDY IN THE STATES

🔔 **CONTACT SEVP**

SEVIS Help Hub Homepage

LEARN MORE

In this section, get additional resources including webinar information, tutorials and enhancement updates.

Planning Tool for 24-Month Extension of STEM OPT 〉

Planning Tool for Post Completion OPT 〉

Back 〈

SEVIS Help Hub Homepage \ Learn More \ Tools

TOOLS

Last updated 31-JAN-2018

Planning Tool for 24-Month Extension of STEM OPT

This document is a planning tool for students on post-completion optional practical training (OPT) who want to file for a 24-month OPT extension based on a degree in science, engineering, technology, or math. The tool identifies eligibility, filing deadlines, and information needed for the extension.

Planning Tool for Post Completion OPT

This document is a planning tool for students pursuing post-completion optional practical training. The tool identifies filing and reporting deadlines.

Share ⧉

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https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/sevis-help-hub/learn-more/tools/planning-tool-for-post-completion-opt

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K

Has the student been authorized for any OPT at the current level of study?
If **NO,** skip to Step 3.

If **Yes,** click here to record periods of approved OPT.

OPT Summary

Days of OPT available per level:	365
Days of OPT used:	0
Available OPT:	365

STEP 3: Determine General Time Limits and Deadlines on Post-Completion OPT Application Based on Program End Date

Enter the program end date on the Form I-20: | 9-May-20 |

The earliest date the Form I-765 can be filed with USCIS:	9-Feb-20
The last date the DSO can recommend OPT in SEVIS:	8-Jul-20
Form I-765 must be filed with USCIS by:	8-Jul-20

Post-completion OPT must begin between:	10-May-20	and	8-Jul-20

This tool is for planning purposes only and does not guarantee
approval of OPT by preferred OPT start date.

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Recent Processing times

| Sent to USCIS	Receipt Date	Approval received
10/31/19	11/06/19	1/06/20
10/31/19	11/06/19	1/15/20
11/01/19	11/06/19	1/06/20
11/10/19	11/18/19	1/10/20
11/10/19	11/18/19	1/15/20
11/27/19	12/3/19	1/24/20
12/13/19	12/18/19	2/28/2020
Student mailed	12/20/19	2/21/2020
Student mailed	01/15/2020	Case status says card mailed 3/3
1/22/2020	1/27/2020	Still pending

G-1145

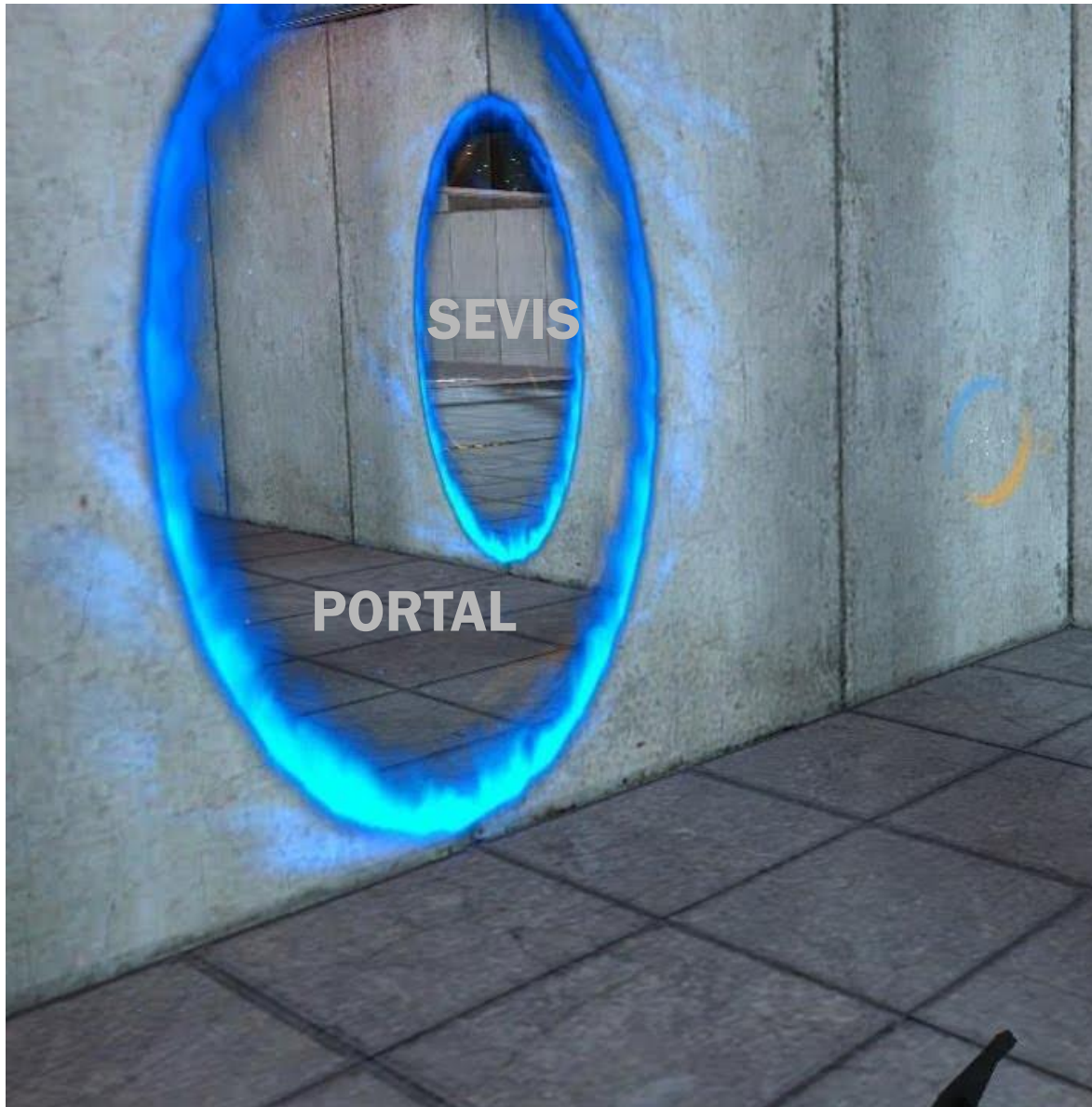THE UNIVERSITY of MISSISSIPPI

EAD Card (Employment Authorization Document)

You can only legally work in the U.S. once you receive your EAD card for the valid dates

Start and End Dates

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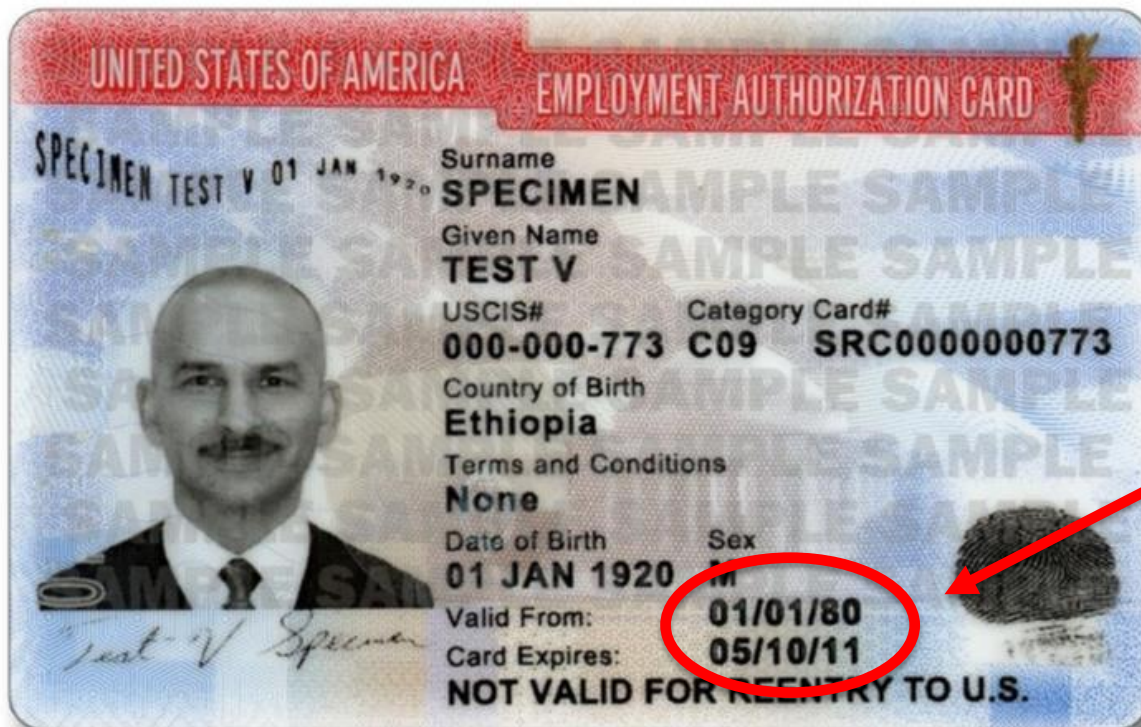
Portal allows:
- Update address & phone number
- View their OPT employment authorizations
- Add new employers
- Delete employers where employment never occurred
- Edit their employment information, including:
  - Employer name
  - Employer address
  - Dates of employment
  - Other editable employment field

- **What if a student was granted post-completion OPT, but doesn't actually graduate at the expected time?**

- Student wants to travel while OPT is pending

what if...

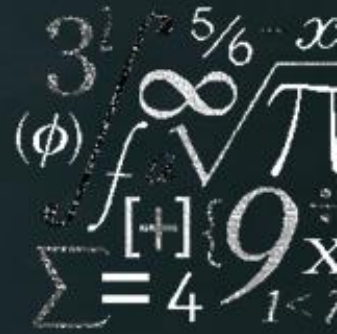- Someone on post-completion OPT wants to study during their OPT period?

STEM extension

- Must be in period of post completion OP and have received a Bachelor's, Master Doctoral degree (or completed all cours requirements exclusive of thesis/dissertation)
- Major listed on the I-20 must be part of SEVP's STEM designated degrees
- Offer of qualifying employment

I-20

PROGRAM OF STUDY

EDUCATION LEVEL	MAJOR 1	MAJOR 2
DOCTORATE	Pharmaceutical Sciences 51.2010	None 00.0000
PROGRAM ENGLISH PROFICIENCY	**ENGLISH PROFICIENCY NOTES**	**EARLIEST ADMISSION DATE**
Required	Student is proficient	22 DECEMBER 2019
START OF CLASSES	**PROGRAM START/END DATE**	
21 JANUARY 2020	21 JANUARY 2020 - 31 DECEMBER 2024	

STEM Designated Degree
Program List
Effective May 10, 2016

The STEM Designated Degree Program list is a complete list of fields of study that DHS considers to be science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) fields of study for purposes of the 24-month STEM optional practical training extension described at 8 CFR 214.2(f). Under 8 CFR 214.2(f)(10)(ii)(C)(2), a STEM field of study is a field of study "included in the Department of Education's Classification of Instructional Programs taxonomy within the two-digit series containing engineering, biological sciences, mathematics, and physical sciences, or a related field. In general, related fields will include fields involving research, innovation, or development of new technologies using engineering, mathematics, computer science, or natural sciences (including physical, biological, and agricultural sciences)."

Accordingly, this list designates the following four CIP summary groups/series at the 2-digit CIP code level: Engineering (CIP code 14), Biological and Biomedical Sciences (CIP code 26), Mathematics and Statistics (CIP code 27), and Physical Sciences (CIP code 40). Any new additions to those areas will automatically be included on this STEM Designated Degree Program list. Consistent with the definition of "related field" above, related fields in this list include fields involving research, innovation, or development of new technologies using engineering, mathematics, computer science, or natural sciences. DHS designates these fields at the 6-digit level.

CIP Code Two-Digit Series	2010 CIP Code	CIP Code Title
01	01.0308	Agroecology and Sustainable Agriculture
01	01.0901	Animal Sciences, General
01	01.0902	Agricultural Animal Breeding
01	01.0903	Animal Health
01	01.0904	Animal Nutrition
01	01.0905	Dairy Science
01	01.0906	Livestock Management
01	01.0907	Poultry Science
01	01.0999	Animal Sciences, Other
01	01.1001	Food Science
01	01.1002	Food Technology and Processing
01	01.1099	Food Science and Technology, Other
01	01.1101	Plant Sciences, General
01	01.1102	Agronomy and Crop Science

42	42.2701	Cognitive Psychology and Psycholinguistics
42	42.2702	Comparative Psychology
42	42.2703	Developmental and Child Psychology
42	42.2704	Experimental Psychology
42	42.2705	Personality Psychology
42	42.2706	Physiological Psychology/Psychobiology
42	42.2707	Social Psychology
42	42.2708	Psychometrics and Quantitative Psychology
42	42.2709	Psychopharmacology
42	42.2799	Research and Experimental Psychology, Other
43	43.0106	Forensic Science and Technology
43	43.0116	Cyber/Computer Forensics and Counterterrorism
45	45.0301	Archeology
45	45.0603	Econometrics and Quantitative Economics
45	45.0702	Geographic Information Science and Cartography
49	49.0101	Aeronautics/Aviation/Aerospace Science and Technology, General
51	51.1002	Cytotechnology/Cytotechnologist
51	51.1005	Clinical Laboratory Science/Medical Technology/Technologist
51	51.1401	Medical Scientist
51	51.2003	Pharmaceutics and Drug Design
51	51.2004	Medicinal and Pharmaceutical Chemistry
51	51.2005	Natural Products Chemistry and Pharmacognosy
51	51.2006	Clinical and Industrial Drug Development
51	51.2007	Pharmacoeconomics/Pharmaceutical Economics
51	51.2009	Industrial and Physical Pharmacy and Cosmetic Sciences
51	51.2010	Pharmaceutical Sciences
51	51.2202	Environmental Health
51	51.2205	Health/Medical Physics
51	51.2502	Veterinary Anatomy
51	51.2503	Veterinary Physiology
51	51.2504	Veterinary Microbiology and Immunobiology
51	51.2505	Veterinary Pathology and Pathobiology

- Paid employment of at least 20 hours per week with each everify employer
- I-983 Training plan
- Additional reporting obligations
  - 6 month validation reports
  - Employer must report termination/ early departure
- Two per lifetime
- 150 days of unemployment allowed for combination of post-completion OPT and 24 month STEM period

Preamble to the final rule [81 FR 13079 par. 521

"students cannot qualify for STEM OPT extensions unless they will be bona fide employees of the employer signing the Training Plan, and the employer that signs the Training Plan must be the same entity that employs the student and provides the practical training experience."

The preamble [81 FR 13079] goes on state that "[t]here are several aspects of the STEM OPT extension that do not make it apt for certain types of arrangements, including:"

"multiple employer arrangements" (but see notes in 3.K.8.2.3.1 Hours, compensation, and working conditions of a STEM OPT job)

"sole proprietorships"

"employment through "temp" agencies"

"employment through consulting firm arrangements that provide labor for hire, and"

"other relationships that do not constitute a bona fide employer-employee relationship"

USCIS STEM OPT page :

- In order to establish a bona fide relationship, the employer may not be the student's "employer" in name only, nor may the student work for the employer on a "volunteer" basis. Moreover, the employer that signs the Form I-983 must be the same entity that provides the practical training experience to the student.
- The "personnel" who may provide and supervise the training experience may be either employees of the employer, or contractors who the employer has retained to provide services to the employer; they may not, however, be employees or contractors of the employer's clients or customers.
- Under no circumstances would another F-1 student on OPT or a STEM OPT extension (who is undergoing training in their own right) be qualified to train another F-1 student on a STEM OPT extension.
- A STEM OPT employer may not assign, or otherwise delegate, its training responsibilities to a non-employer third party (e.g., a client/customer of the employer, employees of the client/customer, or contractors of the client/customer)
- The training experience must take place on-site at the employer's place of business or worksite(s) to which U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has authority to conduct employer site visits to ensure that the employer is meeting program requirements. This means that ICE must always have access to a student's worksite; if the student is sent to different worksite locations as part of the training opportunity, ICE must be able to access such worksite locations. For instance, the training experience may not take place at the place of business or worksite of the employer's clients or customers because ICE would lack authority to visit such sites.
- Online or distance learning arrangements may not be used to fulfill the employer's training obligation to the student. For instance, the employer may not fulfill its training obligation to provide a structured and guided work-based learning experience by having the student make periodic visits to the employer's place of business to receive training, while the student is actually working at the place of business or worksite of a client or customer of the employer.
- The employer may not fulfill its training obligation by having the student make periodic telephone calls or send periodic email messages to the employer to describe and discuss their experiences at the place of business or worksite of a client or customer of the employer.
- The student's practical training experience must be provided by the employer's own trained or supervisory personnel at the employer's own place of business or worksite(s), to which ICE has authority to conduct employer site visits to ensure that the employer is meeting program requirements.
- Staffing and temporary agencies may seek to employ students under the STEM OPT program, but only if they will be the entity that provides the practical training experience to the student at its own place of business and they have a bona fide employer-employee relationship with the student. For instance, a student might possibly receive STEM-related training while working in such an entity's information technology (IT) department.
- Such entities may not, however, assign or contract out students to work for one of their customers or clients, and assign, or otherwise delegate, their training responsibilities to the customer or client. As noted above, the employer that signs the Form I-983 must be the same entity that provides the practical training experience to the student.

Timing

Application needs to be received by the Service Center within the 60 day period following the date the recommendation was made in SEVIS. Additionally,

- Application must be received by Service Center prior to EAD expiration but not more than 90 days prior. 180 days of interim employment authorization allowed until decision is reached
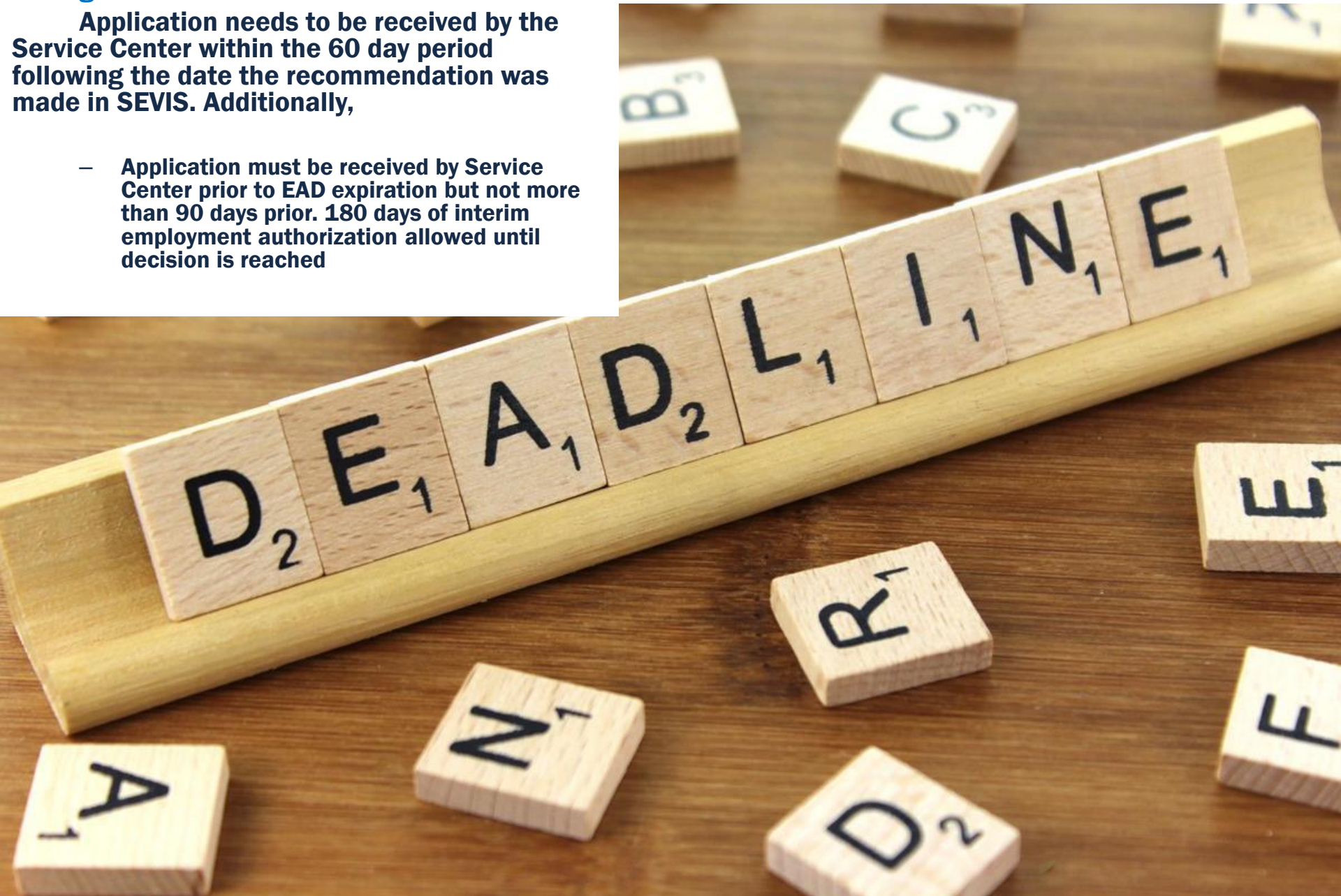
To Apply for STEM extension

- **Student requests an I-20 from DSO**
- **I-765 application is mailed to the appropriate USCIS lock box with supporting documents. In addition to the items sent with standard OPT petitions, the following should be included:**
  - **Copy of diploma/ transcripts showing degree was conferred**
  - **Letter from employer describing how the employment is related to the STEM field of the degree can be helpful, but is not required**

CAP GAP OPT Extension

- **Extends employment eligibility and ability to be in U.S. if in a period of post completion OPT at time of filing H1b petition; extends ability to remain in U.S. if filed after OPT expiration but during 60 day grace period**

- **Usually cap gap authorizations are effective until 10/1 unless the petition is rejected, denied or revoked prior to 10/1. If there is a waitlist period, there may be shorter intervals given based on the expected date for the cap to be reached.**

Post completion OPT ending

Cap Gap

H1B change of status petition requesting 10/1 start date
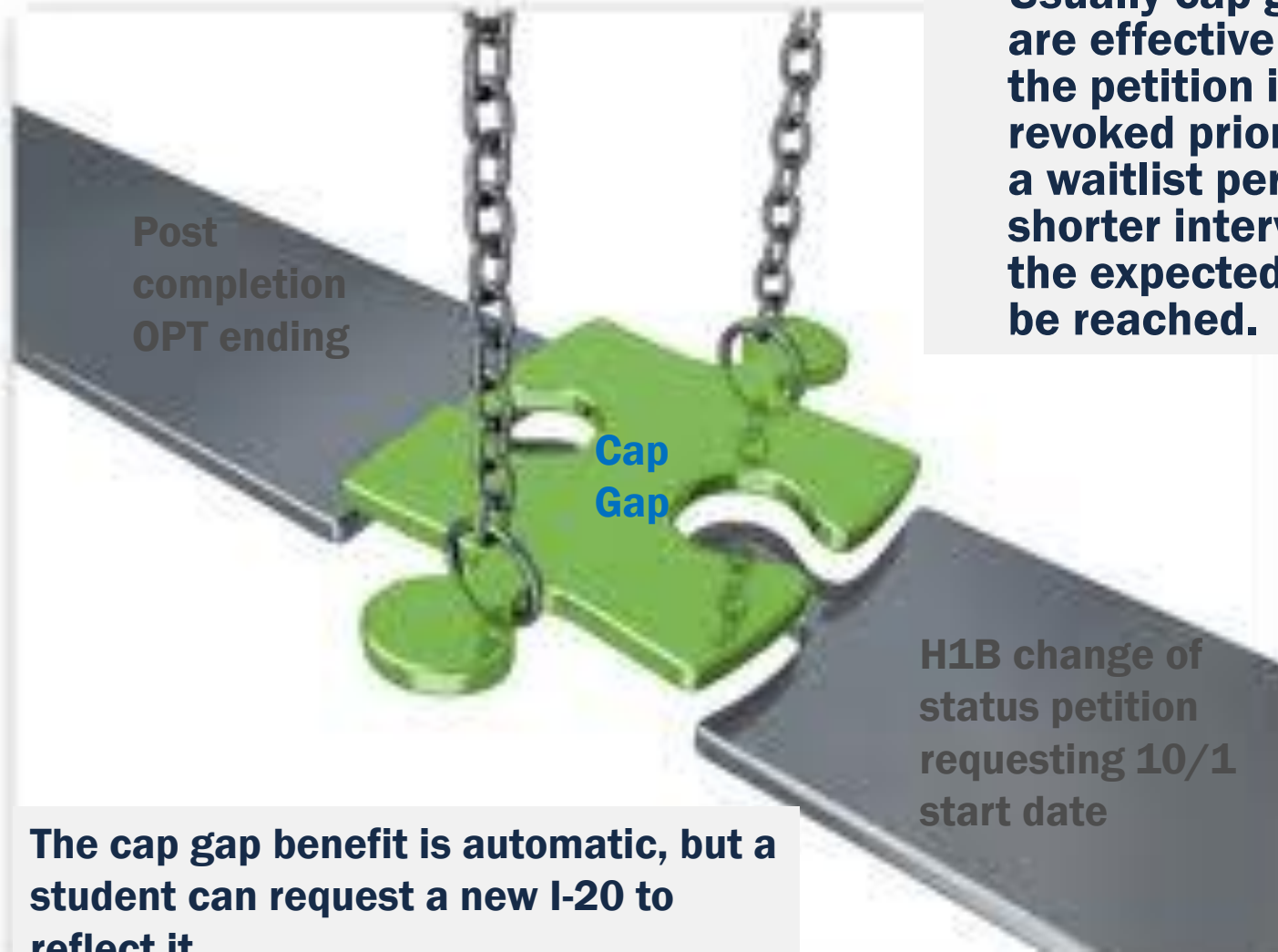
The cap gap benefit is automatic, but a student can request a new I-20 to reflect it.

H-1b registration

- https://www.uscis.gov/news/news-releases/uscis-announces-implementation-h-1b-electronic-registration-process-fiscal-year-2021-cap-season

Release Date: Dec. 6, 2019

WASHINGTON—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services today announced that it has completed a successful pilot testing phase and is implementing the registration process in the next H-1B lottery. Employers seeking to file H-1B cap-subject petitions for the fiscal year 2021 cap, including those eligible for the advanced degree exemption, must first electronically register and pay the associated $10 H-1B registration fee.

The electronic registration process will dramatically streamline processing by reducing paperwork and data exchange, and will provide an overall cost savings to petitioning employers.

Under this new process, employers seeking H-1B workers subject to the cap, or their authorized representatives, will complete a registration process that requires only basic information about their company and each requested worker. USCIS will open an initial registration period from March 1 through March 20, 2020. The H-1B random selection process, if needed, will then be run on those electronic registrations. Only those with selected registrations will be eligible to file H-1B cap-subject petitions.

USCIS Releases H-1B Cap Registration Schedule

KEY H-1B REGISTRATION DATES:

FEBRUARY 18:
Representatives May Begin Creating myUSCIS H-1B Registration Accounts

FEBRUARY 24:
Employers May Begin Creating myUSCIS H-1B Registration Accounts

MARCH 1:
Registration Opens

MARCH 20:
Registration Closes

APRIL 1:
Filling Begins for Selected Petitioners ONLY

USCIS released the H-1B cap registration schedule on LinkedIn.

- https://www.aila.org/advo-media/issues/all/h1b-registration-tool

AILA Doc. No. 19102407 | Dated February 3, 2020

Upcoming Events

→ February 6: USCIS webinar for registrants with overview of the new process. Learn more.

→ February 11: USCIS webinar for attorneys and representatives with overview of the new process. Learn more.

February 6th webinar from 1-2:30

Career Center

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February 2020 Career Center Bulletin (PDF)

Helpful Links

Micro-Internships

Students from all majors can execute professional assignments to build and demonstrate skills while exploring a variety of career paths.

CREATE A FREE ACCOUNT ➔

Welcome to the Career Center

This site will provide you with an array of resources to assist you with your career planning and development needs. We have a team of professional staff who are here and ready to support you in your journey from college student to professional.

If you have questions regarding an event or registration for an event please contact:
Dr. Jonathan Harrington at **662-915-7174**.

ii Handshake

For Students: Click Here

For Employers: Click Here

Our **Diverse Populations** resources have been compiled to assist you with exploring how ethnicity, sexual orientation, veteran status, and other diversity topics affect career exploration and development. Its purpose is to highlight Career Center resources to assist you with your career planning as it relates to your diverse identities.

Career Guides

The International Job Search

USA Guide: A Look at American Language, Culture, Customs and Etiquette

Challenges for International Students in the United States

Interviewing Tips for International Students

H1 Visa Jobs

An online database of American employers for international students.

Spring 2020 Career Expo

February 25 @ 12:00 pm - 3:30 pm

The Inn at Ole Miss Ballroom, 120 Alumni Drive
University, MS 38677 United States **+ Google Map**

MARCH 2020

Mock Interview Madness: Interview Prep Workshop

March 4 @ 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

131 Lamar Hall, 131 Lamar Hall
University, MS 38677 United States **+ Google Map**

Alumni Panel Discussions: Arts and Humanities

March 17 @ 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

127 Lamar Hall, 127 Lamar Hall
University, MS 38677 United States **+ Google Map**

Alumni Panel Discussions: Social Sciences and Natural Sciences

March 18 @ 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

131 Lamar Hall, 131 Lamar Hall
University, MS 38677 United States **+ Google Map**