

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

OMB APPROVAL NO. 1653-0054
EXPIRATION DATE: 4/30/2029

TRAINING PLAN FOR STEM OPT STUDENTS

Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) Optional Practical Training (OPT)

SECTION 1: STUDENT INFORMATION (Completed by Student)					
Student Name (Surname/Primary Name, Given Name): COUGAR, E			Student Email Address: eddiecougar2026@gmail.com		
Name of School Where STEM Degree Awarded: SIUE			SEVIS School Code of School Recommending STEM OPT (including 3- digit suffix): CHI214F10600000		
Designated School Official (DSO) Name: anusser@siue.edu		Designated School Official (DSO) Phone Number: 618-650-3785		Student SEVIS ID No.: N*****	STEM OPT Requested Period (mm-dd-yyyy): From: 09-21-2026 To: 09-20-2028
Qualifying Major and Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code: Computer Science, 11.0701					
Level/Type of Qualifying Degree: Master's Bachelors, Masters, or PhD/Doctorate					
Date Awarded (mm-dd-yyyy): 08/08/2026 Listed as date awarded on official transcripts and/or on diploma					
Based on Prior Degree? ☐					
Employment Authorization Number: XXX-XXX-XXX Enter 9-digit "USCIS#" printed on front of EAD, not card#					
SECTION 2: STUDENT CERTIFICATION					
I declare and affirm under penalty of perjury that the statements and information made herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I understand that the law provides severe penalties for knowingly and willfully falsifying or concealing a material fact, or using any false document in the submission of this form.					
I certify that:					
1. I have reviewed, understand, and will adhere to this Training Plan for STEM OPT Students ("Plan"); 2. I will notify the DSO at the earliest available opportunity if I believe that my employer is not providing me with appropriate training as delineated on this Plan; 3. I understand that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) may deny, revoke, or terminate the STEM OPT of students whom DHS determines are not engaging in OPT in compliance with the law, including the STEM OPT of students who are not, or whose employers are not, complying with this Plan; 4. My practical training opportunity is directly related to the STEM degree that qualifies me for the STEM OPT extension; and 5. I will notify the DSO at the earliest available opportunity regarding any material changes to or deviations from this Plan, including but not limited to, any change of Employer Identification Number resulting from a corporate restructuring, any nontrivial reduction in compensation from the amount previously submitted on the Plan that is not tied to a reduction in hours worked, any significant decrease in hours per week that I engage in a STEM					
Should be a live signature using wet ink; or a certified digital signature as shown.					
Timanye Watson Digitally signed by Timanye Watson Date: 2026.03.05 15:26:54 -06'00'					
Signature of Student: Eddie Cougar					
Printed Name of Student: Eddie Cougar Date (mm-dd-yyyy): 08/09/2026					

DISCLAIMER:

This document is intended only as an informational sample.

All STEM OPT Extension participants and employers are responsible for verifying their I-983 Training Plan is completed in compliance with the Department of Homeland Security rules & regulations found at: <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/stem-opt-hub>

SECTION 3: EMPLOYER INFORMATION (Completed by Employer)

Employer Name:

Street Address:

Suite:

Employer:

Employer:

Employers should refer to the Department of Homeland Security's tutorial for additional guidance on how to properly complete Form I-983: <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/form-i-983-overview>

OPT Hours Per Week (must be at least 20 hours/week):

Compensation:

A. Annual Salary (in U.S. dollars):

Start Date of Employment (mm-dd-yyyy):

B. Other Compensation (Type and Estimated Amount or Value):

The "Start Date of Employment" for STEM OPT is always the date after your 12-month OPT EAD expires. This date should match the "From" date you entered on page 1 of the I-983.

I declare
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any fa**CHANGE OF EMPLOYER**

If your STEM OPT Extension period has begun and you are requesting an I-20 due to a change of employer, enter the date you began (or will begin) working for your new company.

I certify on behalf of the employer that this Training Plan for STEM OPT Students ("Plan") is approved and that:

1. I have reviewed and understand this Plan, and I will ensure that the supervising Official follows this Plan;
2. I will notify the DSO at the earliest available opportunity regarding any material changes to this Plan, including but not limited to, any change of Employer Identification Number resulting from a corporate restructuring, any reduction in compensation from the amount previously submitted on the Plan that is not tied to a reduction in hours worked, any significant decrease in hours per week that a student engages in a STEM training opportunity, and any decrease in hours below the 20-hours-per-week minimum required under this rule;
3. Within five business days of the termination or departure of the student during the authorized period of OPT, I will report such termination or departure to the DSO (*Note: business days do not include federal holidays or weekend days; and an employer shall consider a student to have departed when the employer knows the student has left the practical training opportunity, or when the student has not reported for practical training for a period of five consecutive business days without the consent of the employer*); and
4. I will adhere to all applicable regulatory provisions that govern this program (*see 8 CFR Part 214*), which include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. The student's practical training opportunity is directly related to the STEM degree that qualifies the student for the STEM OPT extension, and the position offered to the student achieves the objectives of his or her participation in this training program;
 - b. The student will receive on-site supervision and training, consistent with this Plan, by experienced and knowledgeable staff;
 - c. The employer has sufficient resources and personnel to provide the specified training program set forth in this Plan, and the employer is prepared to implement that program, including at the location(s) identified in this Plan;
 - d. The student on a STEM OPT extension will not replace a full- or part-time, temporary or permanent U.S. worker. The terms and conditions of the STEM practical training opportunity—including duties, hours, and compensation—are commensurate with the terms and conditions applicable to the employer's similarly situated U.S. workers or, if the employer does not employ and has not recently employed more than two similarly situated U.S. workers in the area of employment, the terms and conditions of other similarly situated U.S. workers in the area of employment; and
 - e. The training conducted pursuant to this Plan complies with all applicable Federal and State requirements relating to employment.

Note: DHS may, at its discretion, conduct a site visit of the employer to ensure that program requirements are being met, including that the employer possesses and maintains the ability and resources to provide structured and guided work-based learning experiences consistent with this Plan.

Signature of Employer Official with Signatory Authority:

Should be a live signature using wet ink; or a certified digital signature

Printed Name and Title of Employer Official with Signatory Authority:

Date (mm-dd-yyyy):

Printed Name of Employing Organization:

SECTION 5: TRAINING PLAN FOR STEM OPT STUDENTS (Completed by Student and Employer)

Student Name (Surname/Primary Name, Given Name):

Employer Name:

Refer to the Department of Homeland Security's tutorial for additional guidance on how to properly complete Form I-983:
<https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/form-i-983-overview>

Site Name:

Name of Official:

Official's Title:

Official's Email:

Official's Phone Number:

Note: for the remaining fields in this section, employers who already have an internal/pre-existing training plan in place may fill in the details based on that plan.

Student Role: Describe the student's role with the employer and how that role is directly related to enhancing the student's knowledge obtained through his or her qualifying STEM degree.

*****IMPORTANT*****

Please review the employer reporting requirements & responsibilities required by USCIS at: <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/employers-stem-opt-reporting-requirements>

Goals and

learning related to his or her STEM degree. The description must both specify the student's goals regarding specific knowledge, skills, or techniques as well as the means by which they will be achieved.

Employer Oversight: Explain how the employer provides oversight and supervision of individuals filling positions such as that being filled by the named F-1 student. If the employer has a training program or related policy in place that controls such oversight and supervision, please describe.

Measures and Assessments: Explain how the employer measures and confirms whether individuals filling positions such as that being filled by the named F-1 student are acquiring new knowledge and skills. If the employer has a training program or related policy in place that controls such measures and assessments, please describe.

Additional Remarks (optional): Provide additional information pertinent to the Plan.

SECTION 6: EMPLOYER OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION

I declare and affirm under penalty of perjury that the statements and information made herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I understand that the law provides severe penalties for knowingly and willfully falsifying or making any false document in the submission of this form.

The STEM OPT participant must be a bona fide employee of the employer signing the Training Plan and verify the employer that signs the Training Plan is the same entity that employs the student and provides the practical training experience.

Employer Official with Signatory Authority - I certify that:

1. I have reviewed, understand, and will follow this Training Plan for STEM OPT Students (Plan);
2. I will conduct the required periodic evaluations of the student;*
3. I will adhere to all applicable regulatory provisions that govern this program (*see 8 CFR Part 214.2(f)(10)(ii)*); and
4. I will notify the DSO regarding any material changes to or material deviations from this Plan at the earliest available opportunity, including if I believe the student is not receiving appropriate training as delineated in this Plan.

Signature of Employer Official with Signatory Authority: _____

Should be a live signature using wet ink; or a certified digital signature

Printed Name and Title of Employer Official with Signatory Authority: _____

Date (mm-dd-yyyy): _____

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

AUTHORITIES: Section 101(a)(15)(F) of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, as amended (INA), 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(F), Section 641 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRIRA), Pub. L. 104-208, Div. C, 110 Stat. 3009-546 (codified at 8 U.S.C. 1372), Section 502 of the Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-173, 116 Stat. 543 (codified at 8 U.S.C. 1762) and Homeland Security Presidential Directive No. 2 (HSPD-2), authorize U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to collect the information requested in this form.

PURPOSE: The information collection on this form is used to assist in the administration of the STEM Optional Practical Training (OPT) extension so that Designated School Officials (DSO) can properly recommend the Student for and review and help coordinate his or her STEM optional practical training opportunity.

ROUTINE USES: The information collected on this form may be shared with: the individuals who signed the Plan, relevant DSOs acting as liaisons with the DHS, Federal, State, local, or foreign government entities for law enforcement purposes, Members of Congress in response to requests on the Student's behalf, or as otherwise authorized pursuant to its published Privacy Act system of records notice - Privacy Act of 1974: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, DHS/ICE-001 Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) System of Records (<https://www.dhs.gov/system-records-notices-sorns>).

DISCLOSURE: The information you provide is voluntary. However, failure to provide the information requested on this form may delay or prevent participation in a STEM OPT opportunity.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 7.5 hours per response, including time required for searching existing data sources, gathering the necessary documentation, providing the information and/or documents required, and reviewing the final collection. You do not have to supply this information unless this collection displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. If you have comments on the accuracy of this burden estimate and/or recommendations for reducing it, send them to: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Office of Policy, 500 12th Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20536

*See evaluation forms that follow for student's first evaluation, to occur before the one year anniversary of the start date of the student's STEM OPT employment authorization, and final program evaluation.

EVALUATION ON STUDENT PROGRESS

Provide a self-evaluation of your performance, using the measures previously identified, in applying and acquiring new knowledge, skills, and competencies identified in the Training Plan for STEM OPT Students. Discuss accomplishments, successful projects, overall contributions, etc., during this review period. Address whether there are any modifications to the objectives and goals for projects, or new areas for skill and competency development.

Range of Evaluation Dates: From (mm-dd-yyyy): _____ To (mm-dd-yyyy): _____

Leave this section blank for now.

This evaluation is due 12 months after starting your approved STEM OPT Extension period. For example: If your STEM OPT starts 09-21-2026, this evaluation is due by 09-20-2027.

Signature of Student: _____

Printed Name of Student: _____ Date (mm-dd-yyyy): _____

Signature of Employer Official with Signatory Authority: _____

Printed Name of Employer Official with Signatory Authority: _____ Date (mm-dd-yyyy): _____

FINAL EVALUATION ON STUDENT PROGRESS

Provide a self-evaluation of your performance, using the measures previously identified, in applying and acquiring new knowledge, skills, and competencies identified in the Training Plan for STEM OPT Students. Discuss accomplishments, successful projects, overall contributions, etc., during this review period. Address whether there are any modifications to the objectives and goals for projects, or new areas for skill and competency development.

Range of Evaluation Dates: From (mm-dd-yyyy): _____ To (mm-dd-yyyy): _____

Leave this section blank for now.

This evaluation is due at the end of your approved 24-month STEM OPT Extension period. For example: If your STEM OPT starts 09-21-2026, this evaluation is due by 09-20-2028.

CHANGE OF EMPLOYER

If your STEM OPT Extension period has begun, and you are requesting an I-20 due to a change of employer, you must complete and submit a "Final Evaluation" for your previous employer, regardless of when your STEM OPT Extension began.

Signature of Student: _____

Printed Name of Student: _____ Date (mm-dd-yyyy): _____

Signature of Employer Official with Signatory Authority: _____

Printed Name of Employer Official with Signatory Authority: _____ Date (mm-dd-yyyy): _____