

STEM OPT Extensions

Eligibility Requirements

Certain F-1 student employees in an Optional Practical Training (OPT) program, who earned a degree in a STEM field, may apply for an extension of their OPT status and work authorization. Employees who have applied for a STEM OPT extension may present either an unexpired (current) EAD, or the following:

- Their facially expired EAD Card; AND
- Form I-20, which must:
 - Be endorsed by a designated school official (usually your university's international services office);
 - Recommend an OPT extension; AND
 - Show that the application was filed **before** the expiration date of the EAD.

Procedures in Tracker

If an employee who is eligible for a STEM OPT Extension presents an expired EAD and endorsed I-20 with a recommendation for extension and showing timely filing of the application, take the following steps in Tracker:

1. In Section 2 (or Section 3 if reverifying), select the List A **Employment Authorization Document**.
2. Under the **Additional Document** section, select **EAD OPT STEM Extension**.
3. Select **Continue with Selected Document(s)**.
4. Enter the actual expiration date shown on the EAD in the **Expires** field.
5. The **Reverification Due Date** and **Additional Information** fields will be automatically completed by Tracker. Do not change these values.
6. Click **Save** to record the changes.
7. You must reverify the employee's work authorization on or before the reverification due date.

Questions

If you have any questions, or are unsure whether an employee is eligible for an extension, contact your central HR office.

Central HR Office Contacts			
Illinois HR (Urbana-Champaign) 217-333-2137 ihr@illinois.edu	UIC HR (Chicago) 312-996-0840 uichrwelcomecenter@uic.edu	UIS HR (Springfield) 217-206-6652 uishr@uis.edu	System HR (System Offices) 217-333-2600 systemhrservices@uillinois.edu