

To: All SEVIS Users

Date: March 11, 2016

Re: STEM OPT 24-Month Extension Final Rule

Number: 1603-02

General Information

Today, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) [published](#) its final rule to strengthen and enhance the optional practical training (OPT) program for F-1 international students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

The new STEM OPT extension is a 24-month period of temporary training that directly relates to an F-1 student's program of study in an approved STEM field and effectively replaces the [17-month STEM OPT extension](#).

The 17-month STEM OPT regulations remain in effect through May 9, 2016. The 2016 STEM OPT 24-month extension final rule is effective beginning May 10, 2016.

Study in the States launched the [STEM OPT Hub](#) in coordination with this new rule to help school officials, F-1 students and interested employers understand the new regulation. On the STEM OPT Hub, stakeholders can find information regarding:

- The [STEM OPT transition plan](#).
- The new [Form I-983, "Training Plan for STEM OPT Students."](#)
- Reporting requirements for [designated school officials \(DSOs\)](#), [students](#) and [employers](#).
- Eligibility requirements for [students](#) and [guidance for DSOs](#) to recommend OPT.
- [Employer site visits](#).
- The [DHS STEM Designated Degree List](#).

Additionally, the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) will host a live [webinar for stakeholders](#) on Thursday, April 14, 2016 from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET that will discuss the new rule. This webinar is free and open to the public. SEVP encourages both F-1 students and school officials to participate.

If you have questions, please call the [SEVP Response Center](#) at 703-603-3400, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET, except holidays and Wednesdays from 12:50 to 1:20 p.m. ET.

Comments

To comment on this Broadcast Message, please email SEVP@ice.dhs.gov with “Broadcast Message 1603-02 Comment” entered in the subject line.

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