STEM OPT Employment Update

Why is this necessary?

International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) must report your participation in STEM OPT by updating employment information in your SEVIS record. You are responsible to inform ISSS within 10 days of a change in your employment.

Once you submit your employment update request, a new I-20 with your new employment information will be issued. Federal regulation requires all F-1 students approved for OPT to report all periods of employment and unemployment. Failure to do so may result in the termination of STEM OPT.

If you need to travel, please make sure you are traveling with the most recent I-20.

How do I apply for employment update?

To request an STEM OPT employment update, please complete an “STEM OPT: Employment Update/Change in Training Plan” E-Form using the UAtlas link found at www.isss.utah.edu. A new I-20 will be issued with the updated employment information.

What information do I need?

- A front and back copy of your current EAD (Employment Authorization Document) card. Please make sure they are readable.
- Form I-983 Training Plan. Please make sure they are filled out completely and correctly.
- The information you provide in the e-form must match the information on your documents or it may result in denial of your STEM OPT employment update request and you may need to resubmit.

Please keep in mind any incomplete request with missing information will be denied. You will need to re-request your STEM OPT employment update with all the correct information.
Loss of Employment

If your employment ends, your employer is also required to notify ISSS after an end in employment. Employers must fill out “STEM OPT Notification of a Loss of Employment” (accessible from STEM OPT: Employment Update/Change in Training Plan e-form when you choose “loss of employment”) and email it to international@utah.edu within 5 business days of an end in employment.

Disclaimer: International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) provides support and information related to U.S. immigration laws and regulations related to F and J status at the University of Utah. ISSS staff are not attorneys and any information provided by ISSS should not be construed as legal advice. Individuals are welcome to consult a qualified immigration attorney for specific legal advice, particularly in complicated cases. For a list of local Utah attorneys please visit our website here.

Employment: ISSS reviews work related requests based upon the information provided to us by the student. If USCIS later determines that the student misused the work authorization, or otherwise did not follow the required rules and regulations, additional immigration benefits could be denied by USCIS.