17-MONTH STEM EXTENSION OF OPT

f you are employed by an E-verify employer and you hold a STEM degree (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), there is a possibility of a 17 month OPT STEM Extension.

1. *Fill in attached request form for 17-Month STEM extension of OPT.*

Once your I-20 has been issued recommending the 17-month STEM extension of your OPT you must send in the following **along with the STEM I-20** to USCIS (application needs to be received BEFORE OPT expiration date):

- ☐ $380 check or money order, payable to DHS, to cover filing fees
- ☐ Two passport-style photos on white background with name on back.
- ☐ Form I-765 (available www.uscis.gov)
- ☐ Copy of Form I-20 issued for STEM OPT (DO NOT forget to sign section 11 before photocopying!)
- ☐ Copies of previous EADs
- ☐ Copy of passport, visa, and your I-94 information
- ☐ Copies of previous I-20s
- ☐ Copy of final transcript or diploma documenting STEM-eligible degree

Copy the application before sending to USCIS. We recommend sending the application in a manner in which you can track its delivery, for example via certified mail, or via an overnight service such as FedEx, UPS, USPS Express Mail, etc. Send the application to the USCIS lockbox to the following addresses if you live in Washington, D.C., Maryland or Virginia (if you live elsewhere please check with ISSS).

For regular mail:

> **USCIS**
> **P.O. Box 660867**
> **Dallas, TX 75266**

For overnight mail:

> **USCIS**
> **Attn: AOS**
> **2501 S. State Highway 121**
> **Business Suite 400**
> **Lewisville, TX 75067**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT STEM OPT

While your application is pending with USCIS:

- you may legally continue to work for an additional 180 days after your current EAD expires.   You may refer your employer to the following website for more information about this: Http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/m-274.pdf

- do not travel outside of the U/S. while your application is pending.

- it is best not to change your address but if you do notify USCIS immediately as the U.S. Post Office will not forward mail from DHS.

The responsibilities of your employer:

Your employer is required to notify ISSS here at CUA within 2 days if your employment has ended before the end of the authorized OPT or if you have not reported to work for more than 5 consecutive days.

Periods of unemployment:

During your regular OPT you were allowed up to 90 days of unemployment. With STEM OPT you get an additional 30 days for a combined total of 120 days of unemployment during both periods of OPT. If you change your employer during the STEM OPT you may have 10 extra days between jobs that do not count towards the unemployment days allowed.

Your responsibilities during your period of STEM OPT:

Report to **ISSS- McMahon Hall 315, 202-319-5618 (CUA-ISSS@cua.edu)** if any of the following information about you changes:
- your name
- your address
- your employer's name and/or address
- any loss of employment
- YOU MUST SEND IN A VALIDATION REPORT TO ISSS EVERY 6 MONTHS WHILE ON STEM OPT.