

## **STEM OPT FEE**

### **Overview and Payment Instructions**

The University at Albany has joined other SUNY Centers in instituting a STEM OPT Application fee effective on November 15, 2021 to offset expenses of supporting the application processing, advising, monitoring and reporting associated with this combined USCIS and SEVIS program.

International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) will assess this fee on students/alumni applying for an I-20 requesting STEM OPT. This fee will be charged on a tiered rate system based on the time the completed STEM OPT Request EForm application is submitted to ISSS:

- Students who submit a complete STEM OPT Request Eform **90 to 31 days prior** to the expiration of their post-completion OPT EAD card will be charged **\$200**
- Students who submit a complete STEM OPT Request Eform **31 to 7 days prior** to the expiration of their post-completion OPT EAD will be charged **\$300**
- Students who submit a complete STEM OPT Request Eform **7 to 1 day prior** to the expiration of their post-completion OPT EAD will be charged **\$300**. ISSS requires 5-7 business days for processing, so students submitting requests with less than 7 days remaining on their post-completion period risk not receiving their I-20 in time to file with USCIS. The assessed charge does not mean the request can or will be expedited; normal processing times should still be expected.

This fee will must be paid through the Student Account Portal prior to submitting the STEM OPT Request EForm. A copy of the fee payment receipt is required to be submitted with the EForm request for a new I-20 requesting STEM OPT.

The STEM OPT Fee covers the following features and processes\*:

- Update instructions and other information on the STEM OPT application process, including new I-765 employment authorization form, instructions, and regulatory references
- Prepare, review and issue STEM OPT I-20 to the student
- Review and retain in the UAlbany student account the I-983 employer verification for the length of time required.
- Review and report to SEVIS the 6 and 18 month reports; annual I-983 self-evaluations, and event-based STEM OPT updates, including changes on the I-983
- Prepare, issue and sign I-20s for travel signatures and support letters for overseas travel
- Update SEVIS record with personal and/or employer addresses and other required information
- Provide available photocopies/scans of documents for H1b application. Please note, ISSS does not otherwise assist with H1b applications and cannot check the case status of non F-1 benefits or applications.
- File for CAP GAP extension in SEVIS
- Transfer, complete or terminate SEVIS record

*\*The information contained in this website/form/page is provided as a service to international students, faculty and staff at the University at Albany. It does not constitute legal advice. We try to provide useful information, but we make no claims, promises or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness or adequacy of the information contained in or linked to this web site or any associated site or form. Neither the University at Albany nor ISSS is responsible for any errors or omissions contained in this website, or for the results obtained from the use of this information. Nothing provided herein should be used as a substitute for the advice of competent legal counsel; students may wish to consult an immigration attorney on the specifics of their case as needed.*