Optional Practical Training (OPT) 24-month STEM extension

This packet contains everything you need to prepare your application for a 24-mo extension of OPT. First, please review eligibility and deadlines:

Eligibility: Can I apply?
- Must have successfully obtained OPT for a qualifying STEM field of study and received degree
- Employment must relate to your field of study

Deadlines: When do I apply?
- Applications should be filed early, up to 90 days before the end date on your current work authorization.
- Applications must be filed no later than 14 days prior to the end date of your work authorization.

Application Checklist: What do I need for my application?
- I-983 Form, Training Plan for STEM OPT Students
- I-765 Form
- G-1145 Form
- Two U.S. passport-style photos taken within last 30 days. Print I-94 number and name on back.
- Copies of passport, visa, old I-20’s from Bucknell or previous schools, I-94 record (retrieve it here: https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94) and any previous EAD (Employment Authorization Document issued by USCIS)
- Check or money order for $410 payable to U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Instructions for completing the I-983 Form:
- Leave blank any lines if you’re unsure
- Work with supervisor or HR to complete and Employer Certification and Training plan portions.

Instructions for completing the I-765 Form:
- Get your employer’s E-verify number from their Human Resources office.
- Leave blank any numbers or lines if you’re unsure
- #11 (which has three lines) YES, which office: Vermont Service Center, date: start date of the OPT
- #13 the place where you passed through Immigration and Customs (Port of Entry)
- #16 You are applying for a 24 month STEM extension (one year after your first OPT): your code is C.

Maintaining status:
- Send updates of contact and work information within 10 days of a change and every 6 months regardless of change to Residential or mailing address, E-mail address, Employer name, Employer address http://tinyurl.com/OPTnotice
- Complete two training evaluations during and at the conclusion of training as outlined in the I-983 form.

How do I apply?
Read these materials, complete forms as instructed (do not staple!) and call 570-577-3794 to make a phone appointment with Jennifer Figueroa, Director of International Student Services (ISS).

You need to read the material and complete the forms to the best of your ability before your meeting