

## **When to Apply**

- You cannot apply for your STEM OPT extension until you are 90 days before your current OPT end date as indicated on your EAD card.
- USCIS must receive your STEM OPT application no later than 60 days from the issuance of your STEM OPT I-20 form AND before your 12 month OPT expires. If your application is returned to you, consult with an IPO advisor to determine if you need a new STEM OPT I-20.
- All applications must be received by USCIS before the end date of your current EAD. If the STEM OPT application arrives even one day after your OPT expiration, your STEM OPT will be denied. You should not work if the STEM OPT application is received by USCIS after the OPT expiration date.