<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Mandatory Enrollment Hours per week Permitted</strong></th>
<th><strong>Pre-Completion</strong></th>
<th><strong>Coursework Completion</strong></th>
<th><strong>Post-Completion OPT</strong></th>
<th><strong>17-month STEM Extension</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Full-time in Fall and Spring Semesters</strong></td>
<td>Full-time in fall and spring or during official school breaks</td>
<td>Full-time in fall and spring PT or FT</td>
<td>None ≥20 hrs/wk</td>
<td>None ≥20 hrs/wk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Acceptable Employment**                       | ● In field of study  
● Standard employment  
● Contract employment  
● Self-employment  
● Volunteer | ● In field of study  
● Standard employment  
● Contract employment  
● Self-employment  
● Volunteer | ● In field of study  
● Standard employment  
● Contract employment  
● Self-employment  
● Volunteer | ● In field of study  
● E-Verify employer  
● Standard employment  
● Contract employment  
● Self-employment |
| **Unemployment Limit**                          | No limit | If Pre-C OPT –  
● No limit  
● No 17-month extension  
If Post-C OPT –  
● 90 days  
● Must finish degree by end of OPT, no extension of I-20 end date | 90 days | Additional 30 days (aggregate total of 120 days for 29 month period of OPT) |
| **Eligibility**                                 | ● Current F-1  
● Have been enrolled F-T in US at least 1 academic year | ● Current F-1  
● Have been enrolled F-T in US at least 1 academic year  
● Completed all required coursework | ● Currently in OPT  
● Have an eligible STEM degree  
● Have job related to field of study  
● Have E-Verify employer | |
| **When to Apply**                               | Apply no sooner than 90 days prior to completion of 1 year of F-T enrollment | After completion of all required coursework with exception of thesis or dissertation | Last semester before graduation  
Apply no sooner than 90 days prior to program end date and no later than 60 days after program end date | Eligibility to apply ends on OPT end date  
Apply no sooner than 120 days prior to current OPT end date and no later than day before OPT end date |
| **Application Process**                         | ● Submit request to ISSFS  
● OPT appointment  
● Student mails I-765 application to USCIS  
● USCIS mails receipt, then EAD card | ● Submit request to ISSFS  
● OPT appointment  
● Student mails I-765 application to USCIS  
● USCIS mails receipt, then EAD card | ● Submit request to ISSFS  
● OPT appointment  
● Student mails I-765 application to USCIS  
● USCIS mails receipt, then EAD card | ● Submit request to ISSFS  
● ISSFS issues I-20  
● Student mails I-765 application to USCIS  
● USCIS mails receipt, then EAD card |
| **Application Costs**                           | ● $380 I-765 fee  
● Cost of photos, copies, and mailing | ● $380 I-765 fee  
● Cost of photos, copies, and mailing | ● $380 I-765 fee  
● Cost of photos, copies, and mailing | ● $380 I-765 fee  
● Cost of photos, copies, and mailing |
| **DHS Reporting Requirements**                  | Within 10 days of any change to name, job, address | Within 10 days of any change to name, job, address | Within 10 days of any change to name, job, address | Within 10 days of any change to name, job, address  
● 6-Month and 12-Month Validation Report |