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Your next step is to send your OPT request to USCIS Service Center. They must receive your OPT request and all necessary materials no later than 30 days after the date your new I-20 was issued, so don't delay mailing everything in!

It is strongly encouraged that you re-read the I-765 instructions from the USCIS website. There is a lot of important information on the instructions, including USCIS contact information. You will need to mail in the following documents:

If you mail your OPT request using regular US Postal Service, then please mail it to:

**USCIS**  
**P.O. Box 21281**  
**Phoenix, AZ 85036**

If you mail your OPT request using UPS, FedEx, DHL or another courier service, then please mail it to:

**USCIS**  
**Attn: NFB A**

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There are different travel regulations while your OPT request is pending,

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While on approved OPT, you are permitted to take courses that are for recreational/leisure purposes only. If you begin a new degree program prior to the end of your OPT authorization, you must begin classes for the next available term, or within 5 months. If you transfer your record to another institution while on OPT, your authorization ends at the moment of transfer. Any remaining OPT eligibility is automatically forfeited.

The only exception is if you did not complete your requirements for your degree, you must complete your courses at NEIU prior to the end date of your OPT authorization, while still meeting the requirements for Full-Time OPT

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As of February 6th, 2020, individuals admitted for duration of status do not begin accruing unlawful presence until an immigration judge finds a status violation in the course of an immigration proceeding, or an immigration officer finds a violation of status in the course of an application for an immigration benefit.

If you are accruing time as unlawful presence, you may be barred from the United States.

If you have accrued more than 180 days but less than 12 months you may be barred for 3 yrs.

If you have accrued more than 1yr you may be barred for 10yrs.

For more information about the Unlawful Presence and Bars to admissibility go to:

<https://www.uscis.gov/legal-resources/unlawful-presence-and-bars-admissibility>

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You have a 60-day grace period after your OPT expiration date. During this time, you may do one of the following options:

Applied and been admitted to NEIU for a new degree to have your I-20 updated to reflect admission to a new degree-seeking program at NEIU.

Have your I-20 record transferred to another university for a new degree-seeking program.

After your OPT ends, you have a 60-day grace period. If you are admitted to another degree program either at NEIU or elsewhere, then your SEVIS record should be updated or transferred to another school during the 60-day grace period so it doesn't affect your OPT. After your SEVIS record is updated or transferred, you must begin classes for the next available term or within 5 months.

Formally apply for a change of status through the USCIS Service Center.

For those who their employer filed the H1B visa, do not call us for the updates, your employer filed on your behalf they should be giving you the update of your status.

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