MBLE Employer OPT & STEM Guide

✔ Currently, foreign students in the Master in Business Logistics Engineering program at OSU are eligible for 12 months of optional practical training (OPT) to work for a U.S. employer in a job directly related to the student’s major area of study. Nothing special needs to be done to hire an OPT student.

✔ Additionally, a new program called STEM, extends the maximum period of OPT from 12 months to 29 months for foreign students in the MBLE program who have completed their degree and accepted employment with employers enrolled in U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services’ (USCIS) E-Verify employment verification program.

✔ E-Verify is a free Internet-based system operated by USCIS and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Enrolling in the E-Verify program is currently the best way for employers to electronically verify the eligibility of newly hired employees, thus helping U.S. employers maintain a legal workforce and attract the best talent.

How Do I Enroll into E-Verify?

1) Registration into E-Verify is only necessary for the STEM extension, but you may enroll earlier if you wish. Once your employee is nearing the end of the 12 month OPT period, you can register online for E-Verify at https://e-verify.uscis.gov/enroll, which provides simple instructions for completing the registration process. It only requires one representative of the employer to run. To verify a potential employee on E-Verify, the information provided on the I-9 form (such as date of birth, Social Security Number, Proof of Identity, etc.) can be used.

2) Once registered, you will receive a user manual and a simple tutorial to become comfortable with the program. You only need to register once. After inputting the employee’s information into E-Verify, you will receive a response within seconds that informs you of the employee’s employment eligibility.

3) Once in E-Verify, employers must verify all newly hired employees, both U.S. citizens and non-citizens. An employer who verifies work authorization under E-Verify is presumed to have not knowingly hired an unauthorized alien.

4) To find out more about E-Verify, please visit www.dhs.gov/e-verify or contact USCIS at 1-888-464-4218.