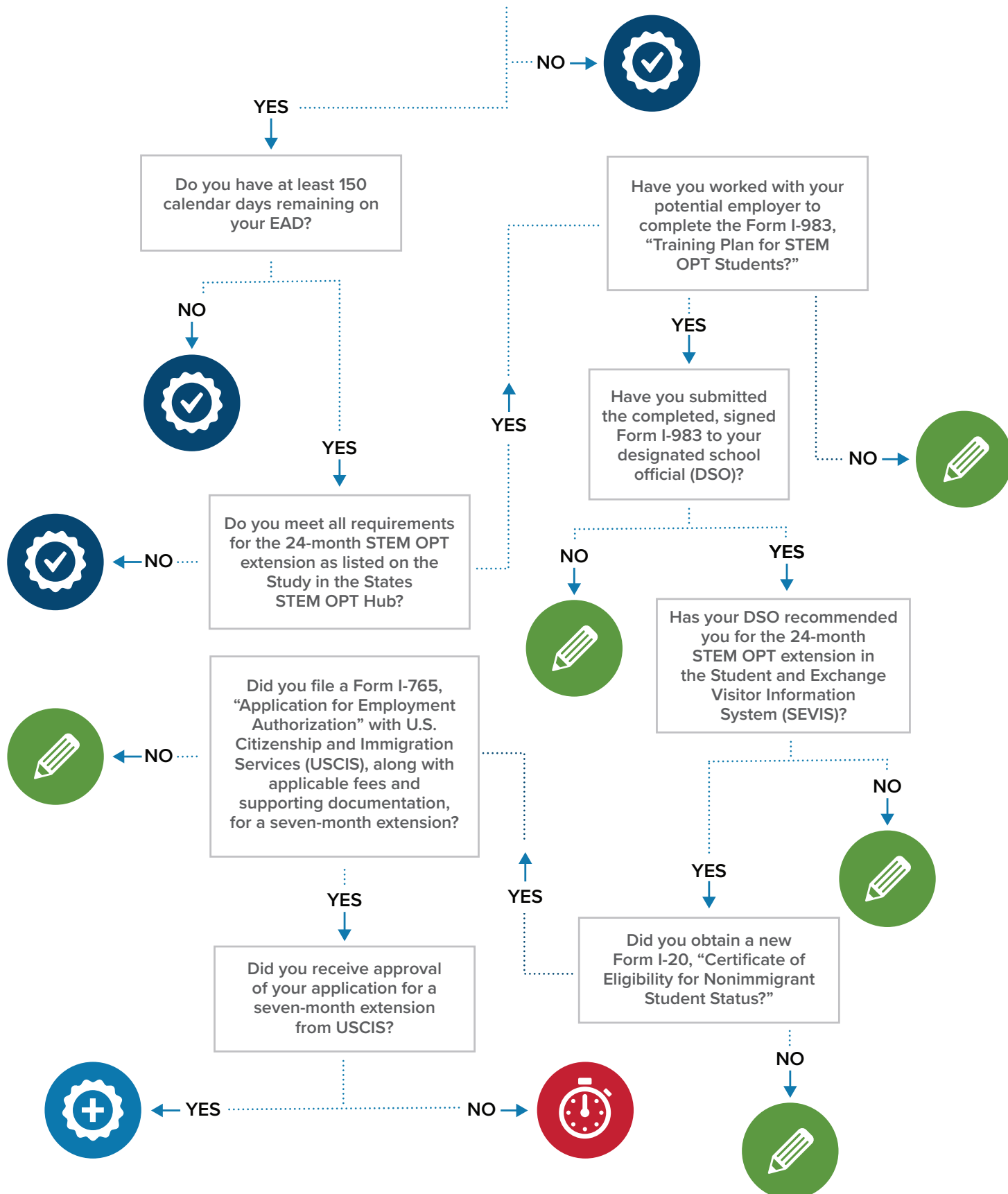# STUDENTS WITH EXISTING 17-MONTH STEM OPT EADS

On May 10, 2016 the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's 24-month optional practical training (OPT) extension for students with science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) degrees effectively replaced the 17-month STEM OPT extension.

Certain students with an existing 17-month STEM OPT employment authorization document (EAD) will have until August 8, 2016 to apply for an additional seven months of OPT. If you have an existing 17-month STEM OPT EAD, take this quiz to help determine if you qualify for the seven-month extension and what next steps you should take.

Do you want to extend your existing 17-month STEM OPT EAD?

NO →

YES ↓

Do you have at least 150 calendar days remaining on your EAD?

NO ↓

YES ↓

Do you meet all requirements for the 24-month STEM OPT extension as listed on the Study in the States STEM OPT Hub?

NO →

YES →

Have you worked with your potential employer to complete the Form I-983, "Training Plan for STEM OPT Students?"

YES ↓

Have you submitted the completed, signed Form I-983 to your designated school official (DSO)?

NO →

NO ↓   **YES** ↓

Has your DSO recommended you for the 24-month STEM OPT extension in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS)?

YES ↓   **NO** ↓

Did you file a Form I-765, "Application for Employment Authorization" with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), along with applicable fees and supporting documentation, for a seven-month extension?

NO →

YES ↓   **YES** ↑

Did you obtain a new Form I-20, "Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status?"

NO ↓

Did you receive approval of your application for a seven-month extension from USCIS?

YES ←   **NO** →

CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF YOUR EXISTING 17-MONTH EAD

Any 17-month STEM OPT EAD that USCIS issued on or before May 9, 2016, will remain valid until the EAD expires, is terminated or revoked. You may be ineligible for the additional seven months or select not to apply. Visit the STEM OPT Hub for more information about eligibility and application requirements for participants with an existing 17-month EAD.

CHECK USCIS' PROCESSING TIMES

If you submitted your application and required documents but do not know whether your application was approved or denied, visit USCIS' website for more information. If you receive a denial from USCIS, you are ineligible or otherwise unauthorized to participate in an additional seven months of STEM OPT, and must depart the United States unless authorized for another status or beginning a new program of study within 60 days of your OPT end date.

FOLLOW THE TERMS OF YOUR NEW EAD FOR THE SEVEN-MONTH EXTENSION AFTER YOUR CURRENT EAD EXPIRES

USCIS will issue an EAD with a new validity period. Follow these new terms and conditions once your current EAD has expired.

SUBMIT ALL INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BEFORE THE AUGUST 8, 2016 DEADLINE

You are missing required documentation to apply for a seven-month extension. Visit the Study in the States STEM OPT Hub for more information about what you need to submit.