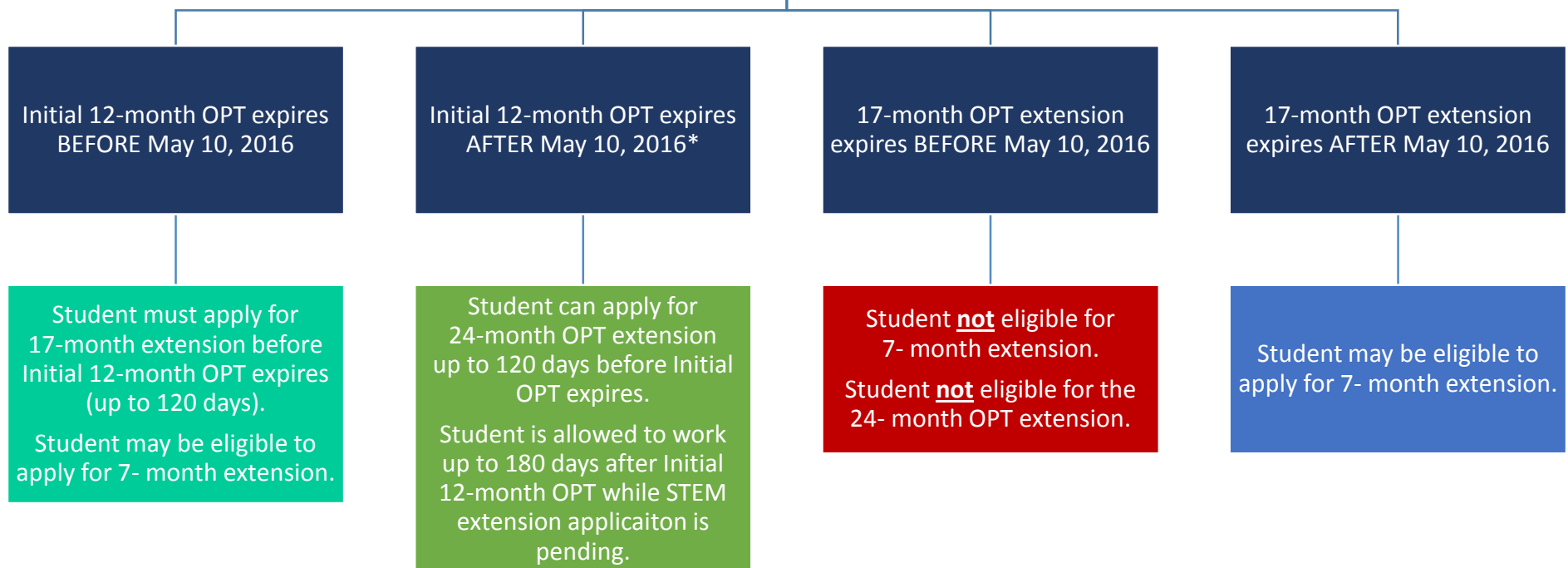


STEM Situations

Choose the one situation that applies to you:



*Students with a previous STEM degree earned at a U.S. institution may be eligible to apply for a 24-month extension after an Initial 12-month OPT- even if the most recent degree earned is not STEM eligible.

Possible Actions

Filing 7-month OPT extension

- Student in 17-month STEM extension is eligible to submit a 7-month extension application if:
 - There is at least 150 days left on 17-month OPT extension when I-765 is received by USCIS **and**
 - I-20 with DSO signature is within 60 days of receipt at USCIS
- Students with OPT expiring before October 7, 2016 are not eligible
- Must re-file for OPT extension, including the filing fee.
- It is not required to file a 7-month OPT extension.
- STEM degree must be on the list effective May 10, 2016.

Filing 17-month OPT extension

- If 17-month extension is approved before May 10, 2016, see information on filing 7-month OPT extension.
- If 17-month extension is pending on May 10, 2016, student will be sent a Request for Evidence (RFE) from USCIS asking for additional documentation required for 24-month extension.
 - No additional filing fee will be required.
 - May delay processing.

Filing 24-month OPT extension

- Student on Initial 12-month OPT is eligible to submit 24-month extension application if:
 - Initial 12-month OPT will be completed after May 10, 2016 **and**
 - the I-765 application is received no more than 120 days before the Initial 12-month OPT end date **and**
 - I-765 can not be received before May 10, 2016
 - STEM degree must be on the list effective May 10, 2016.
 - Student has a previous STEM degree from a U.S. institution. Student must also provide documentation of institution's SEVP certification, institutions accreditation and completion of coursework.