

This document describes the planned system changes for Batch File Processing (Batch) with SEVIS Release 6.0 – Phase 1. The outlined system changes will be available for testing in the Alpha testing environment beginning Thursday, October 16th.

Note: *Blue text identifies modifications made since the August 29, 2008 version of this document.*

F/M Schools

17-Month OPT Extension

Schools will be able to submit 17-month Optional Practical Training (OPT) extensions via Batch for eligible F-1 students. As in SEVIS Real-Time Interactive (RTI), schools will not have the option to enter employment dates for OPT extensions. The OPT extension start date will be the day after the end date of the current Approved OPT segment on which the OPT extension is being requested; the OPT extension end date will be 17 months from the OPT extension start date.

To accommodate this enhancement, the **Student.OPTEmployment.Extend** event will be added to the Create-Update Student schema. The table below defines the elements that will have the **Student.OPTEmployment.Extend** prefix.

Element	Required (R)/ Optional (O)	Comments
StartDate	R	Used to identify the OPT to be extended
EndDate	R	Used to identify the OPT to be extended
FullPartTimeIndicator	R	Used to identify the OPT to be extended
EmployerName	R	No comment
EmployerAddress	R	Has multiple sub-elements
StudentRemarks	O	New element; full description covered in <u>OPT Student Remarks</u> section of this document
Remarks	O	Maximum length will change; full description covered in <u>Employment Comment/Remarks</u> section of this document

Three new error codes and corresponding descriptions will be required to handle those OPT extensions which may not be requested.

Error Code	Description
S1124	OPT extension requests are authorized for approved, post-completion OPT only
S1125	OPT extensions must be requested prior to or on the current OPT employment end date
S1126	OPT extension already exists

OPT Edit

Schools will be able to edit all OPT fields via Batch prior to adjudication (i.e., Requested or Pending status). For Approved status OPT, schools will only be able to update the employer name, employer address, course relevance, completion type, student remarks, and remarks up until the OPT end date. If the OPT is in Canceled, Denied, or Withdrawn status, or is in Approved status with an OPT end date in the past, editing will not be permitted.

A new event, **Student.OPTEmployment.Edit**, will be added to the Create-Update Student schema. The table on the next page defines the elements that will have the **Student.OPTEmployment.Edit** prefix.

Element	Required (R)/ Optional (O)	Comments
StartDate	R	Used to identify the OPT to be edited
EndDate	R	Used to identify the OPT to be edited
FullPartTimeIndicator	R	Used to identify the OPT to be edited
EmployerName	O	Will also be updated to optional for the OPTEmployment.Add event
NewStartDate	O	New element; enter as YYYY-MM-DD
NewEndDate	O	New element; enter as YYYY-MM-DD
NewFullPartTimeIndicator	O	New element; values will be in Employment Time Codes lookup table
EmployerAddress	O	If selected, has multiple sub-elements
CourseRelevance	O	Maximum length will change; full description covered in <u>Employment Comment/Remarks</u> section of this document
AcademicYearMet	O	No comment
CompletionType	O	New element; full description covered in <u>Pre-completion/Post-Completion Indicator</u> section of this document
StudentRemarks	O	New element; full description covered in <u>OPT Student Remarks</u> section of this document
Remarks	O	Maximum length will change; full description covered in <u>Employment Comment/Remarks</u> section of this document

Two new error codes and corresponding descriptions will be added to handle those OPT segments that may not be edited.

Error Code	Description
S1122	[field] may not be edited
S1123	Update not permitted after employment end date

OPT Student Remarks

Student remarks will be added to the Create-Update Student schema for **OPTEmployment.Add**, **OPTEmployment.Edit**, and **OPTEmployment.Extend** events. The student remarks will display on the Student Information page of SEVIS RTI and print on Page 1, Field 9 of the student Form I-20. The table below defines the new element that may have these prefixes.

Element	Required (R)/ Optional (O)	Comments
StudentRemarks	O	Maximum length will be 500 characters

Employment Comment/Remarks

In order to match SEVIS RTI, the existing Create-Update Student schema employment comments/remarks elements listed in the table below will be modified to have a maximum length of 250 characters.

Prefix	Element	Comments
CPTEmployment.Add	CourseRelevance	Will also be changed to optional
CPTEmployment.Add	Remarks	No comment
OffCampusEmployment.Add	Recommendation	Will also be changed to optional
OffCampusEmployment.Edit	Recommendation	Will also be changed to optional
OPTEmployment.Add	CourseRelevance	Will also be changed to optional
OPTEmployment.Add	Remarks	No comment

OPT 6 Month Reporting

Schools will be required to report that an F-1 student with an Approved status OPT extension is participating in the employment segment. The reporting due dates will be 6 months and 12 months after the employment start date. The schools will have two reporting periods which will be 15 days before plus 31 days after each reporting due date.

If the school does not report that the student is participating in the OPT extension, or does not update the OPT extension information within the reporting period, the student will automatically be set to Terminated status with a new reason of “Failure to Report while on OPT” 32 days after the reporting due date.

To allow schools to perform this report via Batch, the **Student.OPTEmployment.ReportParticipation** event will be added to the Create-Update Student schema. The below table defines the elements that will have the **Student.OPTEmployment.ReportParticipation** prefix.

Element	Required (R)/ Optional (O)	Comments
StartDate	R	Used to identify the OPT extension to be verified
EndDate	R	Used to identify the OPT extension to be verified
FullPartTimeIndicator	R	Used to identify the OPT extension to be verified

One new error code and corresponding description will be added to handle cases where the existing OPT extension does not match the verification criteria.

Error Code	Description
S1131	OPT 6 month reporting is not authorized at this time

Pre-Completion/Post-Completion OPT Indicator

When adding or editing an F-1 student OPT segment via Batch, schools will have the option to identify the OPT as either pre-completion or post-completion. If pre-completion is selected, the OPT end date must be on or before the program end date; for post-completion OPT, the OPT start date must be on or after the program end date.

The pre-completion/post-completion OPT indicator will be added to the Create-Update Student schema for **OPTEmployment.Add** and **OPTEmployment.Edit** events. The table below defines the new element that may have these prefixes.

Element	Required (R)/ Optional (O)	Comments
CompletionType	R on Add; O on Edit	Values will be in OPT Employment Completion Type Codes lookup table

Three new error codes and corresponding descriptions will be required to handle cases where the pre-completion or post-completion OPT indicator is missing or is not valid.

Error Code	Description
S1127	[field] is required for this visa type
S1128	OPT end date must be less than or equal to the program end date
S1129	OPT start date must be equal to or greater than the program end date

Filed/Waitlisted Cap-Gap Extension Indicator

For F-1 students, who are on or after their Program End Date, schools will have the ability to indicate either of the following via Batch:

- If the student has provided proof that an employer had filed a petition on the student's behalf to change status to H-1B, the school may mark the Cap-Gap extension as Filed. When the Cap-Gap extension is marked as Filed, if the student has a current, approved, post-completion OPT, the OPT end date will be updated to a new date (to be provided by Department of Homeland Security [DHS] each year).
- If the student has received confirmation that the petition for the Cap-Gap extension has been waitlisted, the school may mark the Cap-Gap extension as Waitlisted. When the Cap-Gap extension is marked as Waitlisted, if the student has a current, approved, post-completion OPT, the OPT end date will be updated to a new date (to be provided by DHS each year).

A new Batch event, **Student.Request.CapGapExtension**, will be added to the Create-Update Student schema to handle this enhancement. The table below defines the element that will have the **Student.Request.CapGapExtension** prefix.

Element	Required (R)/ Optional (O)	Comments
Status	R	Values will be in Cap Gap Extension Type Codes lookup table

Two new error codes and corresponding descriptions will be added to handle cases where the student does not meet the criteria for the Cap Gap extension indicator.

Error Code	Description
S1133	Student has a pending or approved COS from F-1 to H1-B
S1134	CapGapExtension of status [C, F, or T] has already been requested

J Program Sponsors

Student Intern Category

A new subset of the College/University Student category, Student Intern, will be available to sponsors designated for the Student College/University category. Student Intern durations must be between 3 weeks and 12 months; however, Student Interns participating in G-1, G-2, or G-3 programs may have a duration of less than 3 weeks. These durations will be applied to the following actions:

- Create Exchange Visitor (EV)
- Amend Program
- Correct Minor or Technical Infraction
- Extension within the Maximum Duration
- Shorten Program

With the addition of the Student Intern category to Batch, one new EV category code and corresponding description will be added to the Program Category Codes lookup table.

Exchange Visitor Category Code	Exchange Visitor Category Description
1G	STUDENT INTERN

When creating a Student Intern record via Batch, the sponsor will be required to enter a foreign degree level and a foreign field of study. The sponsor may also edit the foreign degree level and a foreign field of study for an Initial (prior to the issuance of a visa) or Active status Student Intern. These new elements will be added to the Create-Update EV schema for both **EV.SubjectField** and **EV.Program.EditSubject** events. The below table defines the new elements that may have these prefixes.

Element	Required (R)/ Optional (O)	Comments
ForeignDegreeLevel	R	Maximum length will be 100 characters
ForeignFieldofStudy	R	Maximum length will be 100 characters

Two new error codes and corresponding descriptions will be related to the processing of the **ForeignDegreeLevel** and **ForeignFieldofStudy** elements.

Error Code	Description
S2237	[field] is required if the category is Student Intern
S2238	[field] must be blank when the category is not Student Intern

Lastly, the Matriculate action will not be permitted via Batch for Student Interns.