

To: DSOs and PDSOs at SEVP-certified schools only (for F and M students)

Date: March 22, 2016

Re: Issues with Display of OPT Information in SEVIS

Number: 1603-06

General Information

Users have reported several issues related to the display of optional practical training (OPT) information in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS):

Reported Issue	Impact and Suggested Workaround
Display of incorrect calculations of accrued days of unemployment on the <i>Employment Information</i> page.	<p>SEVIS does not properly calculate the accrued days of unemployment when the Employer Start Date is earlier than the Actual OPT Start Date. This happens when a designated school official (DSO) enters employer information before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) approves the OPT, and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Actual OPT Start Date is later than the Start Date with the employer; and/or• The Actual OPT End Date is earlier than the End Date with the employer. <p>Workaround: DSOs should edit the Start and End Dates for the position so the dates are in the range of the Actual OPT Start and End Dates.</p>
Unemployment counter displays zero for student without an employer.	<p>When SEVIS Release 6.23 deployed, any student records with approved post-completion OPT that lacked employer information were given an “employer” called “No Employer Name.” This “employer” was given Start and End Dates that were the same as the approved OPT authorization. If the OPT request was pending at the time, then the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) gave the requested OPT dates to the DSO. SEVP did this to give DSOs a chance to update the records. Since these records have values in the Employer Name and a Start Date, SEVIS does not calculate any days of unemployment.</p> <p>Workaround: If the student is unemployed, delete the employer called “No Employer Name.” This will not</p>

Reported Issue	Impact and Suggested Workaround
	<p>result in the termination of the student at this time. If the student is employed, either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edit the employer called “No Employer Name” to reflect the name of the student’s employer; or • Add the information about the student’s actual employer and then delete the employer called “No Employer Name.”
<p>Students without employers are not appearing on the OPT Alert List for students on post-completion OPT without employer information.</p>	<p>The student may not appear on the alert list if they were unemployed prior to the deployment of SEVIS Release 6.23. In this case, SEVIS likely converted the student’s record, adding a “No Employer Name” employer to prevent them from being auto-terminated. Workaround: Delete the “No Employer Name” record, and the student will appear on the list.</p>
<p>Students with employers are appearing on the OPT Alert List for students on post-completion OPT without employer information.</p>	<p>This occurs when the Employer Start or End Date is outside the range of the Actual OPT Start or End Date approved by USCIS. This happens when a DSO enters employer information before USCIS approves the OPT, and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Actual OPT Start Date is later than the Start Date with the employer; and/or • The Actual OPT End Date is earlier than the End Date with the employer. <p>Workaround: DSOs should edit the Start and End Dates for the position so the dates are in the range of the Actual OPT Start and End Dates.</p>
<p>Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) OPT listing on the <i>OPT Employment</i> page displays as post-completion OPT, not as a STEM extension.</p>	<p>This happens when a DSO edits STEM OPT authorization through batch. When STEM OPT is initially recommended, the Employment Type code transmitted to SEVIS is 03. However, when a STEM OPT update is later transmitted, the Employment Type code sent is 02, which is the code for the post-completion OPT. Workaround: When editing a segment of STEM OPT, DSOs should omit the code for the employment type. SEVP will implement a fix in the June 2016 release.</p>
<p>Students are not being terminated for</p>	<p>While SEVIS has the capability to terminate students who accrue too many consecutive days of</p>

Reported Issue	Impact and Suggested Workaround
excessive unemployment.	unemployment, that functionality is currently turned OFF. SEVP will notify school officials prior to activating the auto-terminations for unemployment.
DSO can only access the first page of the alert for Students on OPT without Current Employer Information.	SEVP will implement a fix in the June 2016 release.
DSO clicks the checkbox to indicate the student has met the one academic year requirement for OPT eligibility, but SEVIS generates an error message indicating the need to check the box. SEVIS does not allow the DSO to check the box again.	SEVP will implement a fix in the June 2016 release. DSOs experiencing this issue should call the SEVIS Help Desk at 800-892-4829 for a data fix.

SEVP is working to resolve these issues. Fixes will be released as soon as possible.

If you encounter problems with SEVIS, the following resources are available to you:

Resource	When to Contact
800-892-4829 SEVISHelpdesk@ice.dhs.gov	For immediate assistance with issues that affect individual school or student records. The SEVP Response Center (SRC) provides assistance and opens tickets to track the case. The SRC is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET, except holidays and Wednesdays from 12:50 to 1:20 p.m. ET.
SEVISTechnicalFeedback@ice.dhs.gov	To report problems with the SEVIS enhancements functionalities. This goes directly to the SEVIS team that works with the developers on resolutions.
SEVIS.Batch@ice.dhs.gov	To report problems related to batch. This mailbox is monitored by SEVP's batch manager.

Comments

To comment on this Broadcast Message, please email SEVISTechnicalFeedback@ice.dhs.gov with "Broadcast Message 1603-06 – Comment" entered in the subject line.

Disclaimer

The Broadcast Message is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it itself a rule or a final action by SEVP. It is not intended to, does not, and may not be relied upon to create

any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by any party in any administrative, civil, or criminal matter