STEM Education & Practical Training

The San Francisco Bay Area: A Hub for STEM Jobs
Offering 26 programs in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) fields, California State University, East Bay is situated in the technological center of California - the San Francisco Bay Area. According to Forbes magazine, “In the immediate future no place will challenge the Bay Area as the mecca for technology and STEM employment.” STEM extensions of OPT promote the ability of international students to gain valuable and practical STEM experience that supplements the knowledge gained through their academic studies. By applying their academic knowledge in a STEM OPT extension, students will be in a better position to begin careers in their fields of study. Given the shortage of qualified STEM workers in the Bay Area, Cal State East Bay’s location just a 30-40 minute drive from San Francisco and Silicon Valley is ideal for students looking for practical training in the field. F-1 students in good standing and studying one of the STEM fields offered at Cal State East Bay (listed at right) are eligible to apply to work in the U.S. for up to three years following the conclusion of each higher degree level.

Stand Out To Your Future Employer
Through the Career Awareness and Preparation Program (CAP), the Institute for STEM Education at Cal State East Bay offers work-based learning opportunities for students to explore the variety of STEM industries that make the Bay Area a global leader in innovation. We’ll help to give you the confidence and skills to stand out and plan the pathway to find the job of your dreams!

- Site Tours and On-campus Career Exploration
  Get exclusive behind-the-scenes access to industries, meet casually with business professionals, explore career options. Recent tours and on-campus job talks have include Baxter International, Lawrence Berkeley National Labs, Boehringer Ingelheim, and Genentech.

- Professional Communication Workshops
  Craft a cover letter and resume that will help you stand out. Practice your interviewing skills to gain confidence. Work with professionals and other students to develop materials to catch the attention of recruiters.

“I recently attended the resume and cover letter workshop. Through my excellent resume, cover letter, and interview skills I was able to get an internship at Genetech one of the biggest biotech companies. I believe attending this workshop played a big role in the hiring process.” - Diana P.
STEM Optional Practical Training

- All eligible F-1 nonimmigrant students may apply for 12 months of Post Completion Optional Practical Training (OPT) at the completion of their degree.
- Those with degrees from accredited U.S. colleges and universities in Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)-certified STEM programs (for list of approved STEM programs see: https://www.ice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/stem-list.pdf) may apply for a 24-month STEM OPT extension to their Post Completion OPT.

What CSUEB Students Say About Their STEM OPT Experience

Antony Paulson Chazhoor, India, MS Business Analytics
“The MSBA degree at CSUEB was a divine opportunity and the best decision in my career. All of the core courses and assignments were exciting, challenging, and they had to be tackled with creativity. The courses trained me to think analytically with business data and they encouraged out of the box thinking. The professors at the college of business and economics were absolutely terrific and supportive. The knowledge I gained was instrumental in helping me land a position as an Advanced Analytics Manager at Walmart Media Group. It took grit to complete the course successfully and CSUEB helped nurture this grit by providing all the resources a student needs to be successful.”

Olive Shang, Cameroon, BS Biological Sciences
“The Opportunities and valued lessons I received through the course of my studies at California State University, East Bay are unmatched till date. One of the aspects of my experience at CSU East Bay that prepared me for my OPT was its rich cultural diversity. While at CSU East Bay, I studied and worked with students/professors from many different cultures. I learned how different people approach situations based on their cultural backgrounds which made my transition into the diverse workforce of the Bay Area very smooth. I am currently on my OPT STEM tenure working as a Research Associate in a pathology lab at Fremont California, where I continue to use the academic and professional skills I learned through a well rounded education at CSU East Bay.”

Xinchi Li, China, MA Multimedia/Interaction Design
“Currently, I’m working as a Cloud Support Associate at Amazon Web Services, Inc. My job responsibilities are diving deep into the AWS services and troubleshooting customers’ cases. I’ve developed my troubleshooting skills and learned best practices for working with users a lot during my master’s program at CSUEB. Studying at CSUEB offered me a lot of opportunities. For example, it provided me many chances to connect with Pioneers in my field in the Bay Area. The low-cost intuition and the high standard of education is why I like CSUEB the most.”

Sample of Companies that hired CSUEB students for STEM OPT in 2021-22