

All employment while on post-completion OPT must be related to your degree program. While on the STEM OPT extension, employment must be directly related to the degree that qualifies you for the extension. You are responsible for explaining the direct relationship between the job and your degree. Below are some example explanations provided by SEVP.



### Sample Explanations of a Direct Relationship

1. **Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering:** I work full-time as an Electrical Engineer at ABC Corp., a government contractor. In my job, I analyze client requirements for electrical systems and provide them with cost estimates of such systems. My work requires understanding of electrical circuit theory, which I studied in-depth at the University of ABC.
2. **Bachelor's degree in Business:** I work full-time as a Loan Officer at a mortgage company, Happy Homes, where I meet with clients and evaluate, authorize and recommend approval of loan applications. On a daily basis, I use the knowledge I gained in my credit analysis, sales and marketing classes that I took as part of my major program of study.
3. **Master's degree in Music:** I am working at a hospital playing the harp in patient rooms. I also conduct hands-on harp beginner workshops for long-term patients. On average, I work at the hospital 35 hours a week. My duties directly utilize the skills and knowledge I acquired from my coursework and degree in music therapy.
4. **PhD in Computer Science:** I am employed as a Computer and Information Research Scientist at ABC Research Institute. I work as part of a team of scientists and engineers that designs experiments to test the operation of various software systems. My work builds on research in complex algorithms and machine learning, which I studied as part of my dissertation.
5. **Master's degree in Kinesiology:** I am working 25 hours a week in a health food store as a consultant for Self-Made Inc., designing and teaching exercise classes that are incorporated into a customer's overall nutrition and exercise plan. My designs and customer instruction draw upon my studies and classwork in exercise therapy and physical reconditioning.

Sample Explanations from [SEVP Policy Guidance issued on September 27, 2019](#).



### Sample Explanations that DO NOT Show a Direct Relationship

Explanations like the ones that follow are not acceptable because they do not explain the relationship between the job and the degree program. Students who submit descriptions like the ones below may be asked to provide additional information.

1. **PhD in Mechanical Engineering:** I am a postdoc.  
[This description does not provide details about the job duties nor does it explain how those duties are related to the degree program.]
2. **Master's degree in Finance:** My responsibilities include: 1.Extract and prepare data from macroeconomic and financial online databases; 2.Interpret and analyze data to support the research; 3.Perform literature reviews and academic writing; 4.Actively engage with the team in providing topics for further analysis; 5.Research ideas and new ways to present concepts.  
[This description is a list of job duties but it does not explain how those duties are related to the degree program.]