F-1 STEM-OPT Online Application Checklist

REMINDER: The STEM OPT Extension application must be received by USCIS within 60 days of the date on which ISSS issues an OPT I-20. If filed with USCIS after 60 days of the STEM OPT I-20 issuance date, your application will be denied. Please contact your ISSS advisor to request OPT I-20 if yours is almost 30 days old and you have not submitted it yet.

To prepare the STEM-OPT online application for USCIS, assemble the following requirements:

- **I-765 Application Fee**
  - Currently the fee is $410; See [https://www.uscis.gov/forms/our-fees](https://www.uscis.gov/forms/our-fees)
  - Note: there is NO biometric fee for STEM-OPT.

- **US Passport-Style Photo**
  - Upload a clear color image of your face taken within the last 6 months. No selfies, no filters. No glasses. White or off-white background only. Refer to the photo guidelines on [Department of State website](https://www.dos.state.gov/)

- **Form I-765**
  - Please refer to our filing guide for form I-765 for OPT [at this link](https://www.cbp.gov/i94).
  - USCIS provides [tips for filing online](https://www.cbp.gov/i94) on its website also.

- **Digital copies of your documents in acceptable formats:**
  - Qualifying STEM degree transcript and/or diploma (if it states the major)
  - New I-20 with the STEM OPT extension recommendation (sign and date)
  - Most recent I-94 record, found at I94 Official Website: [www.cbp.gov/i94](https://www.cbp.gov/i94)
  - Passport ID or biographical page
  - F-1 visa (citizens of Canada and Bermuda are exempt)
  - All previous EADs (if applicable), front and back
  - All previous CPT and/or OPT authorized I-20’s. See [https://global.upenn.edu/isss/f-1-opt-faqs](https://global.upenn.edu/isss/f-1-opt-faqs) if you are missing I-20s.
    - If you have Change of Education Level I-20s, submit previous degree’s I-20 and Change of Education Level I-20 in addition to above.

**Final Steps**

1. Check all documents for completeness and accuracy. Refer to the USCIS [I-765 Instructions](https://www.cbp.gov/i94) and the [ISSS Online Filing Guide](https://www.cbp.gov/i94).
2. Finally, if you decide NOT to apply for OPT or use your OPT benefits, please notify your ISSS Advisor.