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
    - 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.

- Form I-765
    - Please refer to our filing guide for form I-765 for OPT **at this link.**
    - USCIS provides tips for filing online 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
    - 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 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 and the ISSS Online Filing Guide.
2. **Finally, if you decide NOT to apply for OPT or use your OPT benefits, please notify your ISSS Advisor.**