

STEM OPT GUIDE

Student : _____

MUST APPLY BY

Step 1: Gather Application Materials

Payment:

- Credit card, debit card, or bank account

U.S. passport photos

- Photos must be from past 30 days
- One photo uploaded as .jpg or .jpeg

Copy of signed STEM OPT Recommendation I-20

Most recent I-94

- Locate electronic I-94 on CBP website: <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94/#/recent-search>

Copy of passport

- Include page with passport expiration date, if different

Copy of most recent F-1 visa

Copy of previous OPT recommendation I-20s

Copy of previous EADs from USCIS

- Include front and back copies of EAD

Copy of official ISU transcript OR Copy of diploma

- Transcript must show major and degree earned

Documentation showing completion of coursework

- Only needed for graduate students who have not defended

Step 2: ISSO Advisor Reviews Application

Upload application materials in CyStart's STEM OPT Application Review form in the Optional Practical Training STEM Extension (STEM OPT) Checklist. To retrieve I-765 draft, download the View Draft Snapshot in myUSCIS account. It is strongly recommended to submit your application for ISSO review before filing with USCIS.

Step 3: Submit Application to USCIS

Attach application materials in myUSCIS account. When complete, submit and pay for application.