

# Optional Practical Training (OPT)

OPT (Optional Practical Training) is a type of work permission available for F-1 international students who finish their program requirements.

*SCAN HERE TO*



*LEARN MORE!*

## Eligibility

Students must complete one academic year of full-time study at a US university and finish their program requirements before applying for OPT.

## Application Process

First, review the steps on our website. Then, submit an OPT request and complete all required materials. ISSS will send you an email once your OPT I-20 is ready.

## Deadlines

Students can begin the application process 90 days before their I-20 program end date. Students must apply to USCIS before their 60 day grace period ends.

### REMEMBER:

**You must receive an OPT I-20 before you submit your application to USCIS!**



## Ready to apply?

[iss-portal.umbc.edu](https://iss-portal.umbc.edu)



## FAQs

### Can I work for multiple employers for OPT?

- Yes! You must work a combined total of at least 20 hours/week.

### Does it need to be related to my major?

- Yes - the position must be related to your program major.

### Do I need a job offer letter before applying?

- No, you do not need a job offer letter. You can apply without one.

## Questions?

[iss.umbc.edu/contact](https://iss.umbc.edu/contact)

## Hours:

Mon - Fri, 8:30am to 4:30pm  
UC207 A

# OPT Checklist

This is a checklist of items F-1 students need to upload to their [I-765 Post-Completion OPT application](#) to USCIS. The online application system guides you on what documents you will need:

- Recent 2 x 2 [passport photo](#)**
- Recent [I-94 record](#)**
- OPT I-20 with signatures**
  - Sign your name with blue ink on first page
  - Check if there is an OPT Recommendation on the second page. It should list “OPT Requested” and the requested start and end dates.
- Copy of passport biographical page(s)**
- Copy of any previous EAD cards (if applicable)**
- Copy of any previous I-20s with CPT and/or OPT approvals (if applicable)**
- USCIS Filing Fee**
  - Do **NOT** submit until you review and double check your application!

**All application materials must fit USCIS online application’s size requirements. Please make sure all documents are clear and legible.**

The ISSS office provides general guidance on your OPT/STEM OPT application based on information obtained from reliable sources and our experience in working with students. Any advice provided to you by our office (as well as the information in this packet) does not constitute as legal advice. You are responsible for providing all information and materials accurately to USCIS.

