After Mailing Your Pre-Completion OPT Application

After mailing your OPT application to USCIS, it is important that you read and understand the information presented below. More detailed information can be found on the HIO website here: [http://www.hio.harvard.edu/optional-practical-training-opt](http://www.hio.harvard.edu/optional-practical-training-opt)

**AFTER MAILING**

- Maintain your FedEx/UPS/USPS proof of delivery, confirming that your OPT application was received by USCIS. You must have proof of delivery if you wish to take any subsequent action on your case.

- You should receive **three (3) pieces of mail** from USCIS: an I-797 notice of receipt, an I-797 notice of approval, and, ultimately, the official EAD card. Review the information carefully on all documents.

- You can check your OPT application’s status at [https://egov.uscis.gov/casestatus/landing.do](https://egov.uscis.gov/casestatus/landing.do)

- Please note that OPT applications may take 3-5 months to be processed by USCIS before the EAD is issued. OPT application processing cannot be expedited.

- You may start working only **AFTER** you receive the physical EAD and the start date has commenced and no later than the end date of your EAD.

- **Contact your HIO advisor immediately if you:** do not receive your USCIS receipt notice within 60 days of submitting your OPT application; receive a notice with a request for additional information; or if your OPT application is returned to you or if there is incorrect information on the EAD card.

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*The HIO provides general guidance on your OPT/STEM OPT application based on information obtained from reliable sources and reflecting our years of experience in working with students. We make every attempt to ensure that we provide you with the most up-to-date information available. Any advice provided to you by our office (as well as the information in this packet) does not constitute legal advice, however. The OPT application is a personal application for which you are responsible; the application preparation and USCIS case decision will vary depending on the facts at issue in your particular case. The HIO does its best to provide you with the most current guidance, but please be mindful that USCIS may change its interpretation of these policies, procedures, regulations, and eligibility requirements at any time. The HIO is not responsible for any errors or omissions, or for the results obtained from USCIS.*