Rejections, Denials, and RFEs for Post-Completion OPT
Rejections vs. Denials

A rejection occurs when the USCIS Lockbox (mailing) Facility sends back your entire OPT application packet without sending it to a Service Center for processing. Potential reasons why:
1. Your check or other payment method failed*
2. You did not sign your form I-765
3. Your OPT application packet is missing several required documents
4. You did not select a reason for applying (the very first question on the I-765)

*Please note that USCIS DOES NOT process your payment for a rejection.

A denial occurs when your OPT application packet is sent to a Service Center for adjudication (processing) and the adjudicator discovers that you’re unequivocally ineligible for OPT. Potential reasons why:
1. You submitted your application packet to USCIS more than 30 days AFTER the date ISSS issued your I-20.
2. You’ve already been approved for OPT at the same degree level (only one OPT authorization per degree level).
3. You clearly have not met your eligibility requirements (i.e., one academic year of full-time studies)
4. You applied for OPT after the 60-day grace period expired

RFEs (Requests for Evidence)*

Requests for evidence (RFE) are sent to students when there is a relatively minor correction or clarification (additional information) that needs to be made. These can include:
1. Passports that have less than 6 months of validity or expired passports
2. You filled out a particular section of the I-765 incorrectly or not at all (e.g., I-94 number was incorrect or you forgot to add your most recent date of entry into the U.S.)
3. Information on I-94/I-20 is inconsistent or incorrect (e.g., incorrect name order, wrong visa class, etc.)
4. Your photos are older than 30 days or are of poor quality
5. You need to prove that you fulfilled your eligibility requirements for OPT (i.e., you will be asked to submit an academic transcript to USCIS)
6. Your photo ID could not be confirmed

*It’s at USCIS’s discretion to issue the student an RFE. The adjudicator (processor of your application) may either issue an RFE or deny your application if there are errors or missing information.
Rejections vs. Denials

**Responding to a Rejection:**
- Must refile ENTIRE application with cover letter of rejection notice on top
- Resubmit payment (original check would have been sent back to you so you won’t have to pay twice)
- You will be unable to refile an application if your grace period has expired already
- **Request another I-20 for OPT from ISSS**
- Your 12 months of OPT will most likely be reduced because of this delay

**Responding to a Denial:**
- Once again, you must refile the entire application AND pay another fee of $410.00 so long as your grace period has not expired.
- **Request another I-20 for OPT from ISSS**
- As with a rejection, your 12 months of OPT will most likely be reduced because of the delay

RFEs (Request for Evidence)

**Responding to an RFE:**
- Do EXACTLY what the RFE instructs (e.g., it will tell you specifically what you need to redo or submit, do not submit more documents than necessary!!)
- Make sure to include the entire cover letter of the RFE on top of your new document submission.
- Submit directly to the address on the RFE
- As with rejections and denials, your OPT application will be delayed as a result and your total OPT authorization period may be reduced

**ALWAYS #TalkToUs BEFORE RESPONDING TO AN RFE, REJECTION, OR DENIAL!!!**

- PLEASE RESPOND WITHIN THE INDICATED TIMEFRAME ON THE RFE, WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY 30 TO 90 DAYS.
- RESPOND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO AVOID DELAYING YOUR OPT APPLICATION FURTHER
Your application is missing documentation establishing your identity. USCIS requires photocopies of identity documents that clearly show the facial features of the applicant and the applicant’s biographical information. Standard black and white photocopies most often do not meet this requirement, so it may be prudent to submit COLOR photocopy (ies) slightly enlarged from the original or the original document listed below:

Submit a copy of your last Employment Authorization Document (front and back). If no prior EAD has been issued, you must submit a current photo identity document such as a passport showing your picture, name, and date of birth; a driver’s license; a birth certificate with photo ID; a visa issued by a foreign consulate; or a national ID document with photo and/or fingerprint or other type of photo ID, issued by a Government agency.

“DO NOT” submit a copy of a notarial certificate, or photos with colorful backgrounds; this is not valid for photo identity purposes.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR RESPONSE BY MAIL. PLEASE INCLUDE THIS ENTIRE LETTER ON TOP OF YOUR RESPONSE. SUBMISSION OF EVIDENCE WITHOUT THIS LETTER WILL DELAY PROCESSING OF YOUR CASE AND MAY RESULT IN A DENIAL. PLEASE MAIL YOUR RESPONSE TO THE POTO MAC SERVICE CENTER, 2200 POTO MAC SERVICE CENTER DR DROP 2425, ARLINGTON VA 20598-2425.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Office]
Two reasons for a rejection can be seen on this notice:
1. Payment is incorrect
2. Reason for applying on I-765 was not selected
September 23, 2019

RE: I-765, Application for Employment Authorization

DECISION

This notice refers to your Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, filed on May 14, 2019, in which you are requesting employment authorization pursuant to Title 8, Code of Federal Regulations (8 CFR) 274a.12(c)(3)(B). Upon consideration, it is ordered that your application be denied for the following reason(s):

The instructions for the Form I-765 state, in pertinent part:

F-1 Student seeking Optional Practical Training (OPT) in an Occupation Directly Related to Studies (e)(3)(i). File your EAD application with a Certification of Eligibility of Nonimmigrants (F-1) Student Status (Form I-20AB) endorsed by a Designated School Official (DSO) within the past 30 days.


For post-completion Optional Practical Training (OPT), the student must properly file his or her Form I-765 up to 90 days prior to his or her program end-date and no later than 60 days after his or her program end-date. The student must also file the Form I-765 with USCIS within 30 days of the date the DSO enters the recommendation for OPT into his or her SEVIS record.

You are applying for post-completion OPT. Your Form I-765 application was received by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) on May 14, 2019, and the date the DSO entered your recommendation for OPT into your SEVIS record was April 2, 2019. You have failed to submit Form I-765 within 30 days of the date the DSO entered the recommendation for OPT in your Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) record.

[Redacted]

Reason for Denial
THANK YOU!

SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY  powering SILICON VALLEY

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