F-1 students are required to submit photos when applying for Optional Practical Training. Please follow these guidelines to ensure the photos are acceptable:

Submit two (2) passport-style color photos with a white background taken no earlier than 30 days before submission of your application. They should be unmounted, glossy and unretouched. The photos should show a full-frontal facial position. Your head should be bare unless you are wearing a hat or headgear for religious reasons. The photo should not be larger than 2 x 2 inches, with the distance from the top of the head to just below the chin about 1 ¼ inches. Lightly print your name and your I-94 number on the back of each photo.

*Please be sure to remove your glasses before getting your photo taken.*

* Photo must be 2 inches by 2 inches
* The height of the head (top of hair to bottom of chin) should measure 1 inch to 1 3/8 inches (25 mm - 35 mm)
* Make sure the eye height is between 1 1/8 inches to 1 3/8 inches (28 mm – 35 mm) from the bottom of the photo

Well Composed Photo Composition Examples

OPT photos may be purchased at HUB Express in Monroe Hall (Across from Artesano's). The following businesses are also able to provide the correct photographs

1. Walmart Super Center – 1200 Marketplace Drive, 585-292-6000
2. FedEx Kinko's – 941 Jefferson Road, 585-240-2670
3. Clix – 1425 Jefferson Road, 585-292-1660

see Photo FAQ’s next page
Frequently Asked Questions About OPT Photos

How many photos are required to be submitted with the OPT application?
Two (2) identical photos must be submitted with the OPT application.

How recent must the photos be?
The photos must be no more than 30 days old when the application is filed.

What pose should the photos show?
The photo should show a clear, front view, full face image of you. You should be in normal street attire, without a hat or glasses against a plain white background. You should have a natural expression, mouth closed, and eyes open and looking directly ahead. If your face is not in focus the photographs will not be accepted.

Do the photos have to be in color?
Yes.

How big should the head be in the photo?
Your head, measured from the bottom of the chin to the top of the hair, should be between 1 inch and 1-3/8 inches. The head should be centered in the photo. Your head should not be tilted up, down or to the side. It should cover about 50% of the area of the photo.

Can hats or religious headgear be worn for the photo?
Unless worn daily for religious reasons, all hats or headgear should be removed for the photo. In all cases, no item or attire should cover or otherwise obscure any part of your face.

Can work uniforms be worn for the photo?
 Uniforms should not be worn in photographs except in the case of religious attire that is worn daily. Otherwise, normal street attire should be worn.

Are photos that are copied from recent driver licenses or other official documents acceptable?
No, only original photographs are acceptable. Copied or digitally scanned photos of photos will not be accepted. In addition, photos must not be retouched to alter your appearance in any way.

Are snapshots, magazine photos, or photos from vending machine acceptable?
No, snapshots, magazine photos, most vending machine prints, or full-length photographs are not acceptable.

May photos be taken with a digital camera?
If the digital camera has sufficient resolution — capable of capturing and storing images with 1 million pixels (megapixels) or more — it can be used to take the photos. However, printing of digital images is best done by professional photography processing labs because many off-the-shelf digital printers cannot achieve the image-quality required for OPT photographs.

(from www.travel.state.gov)