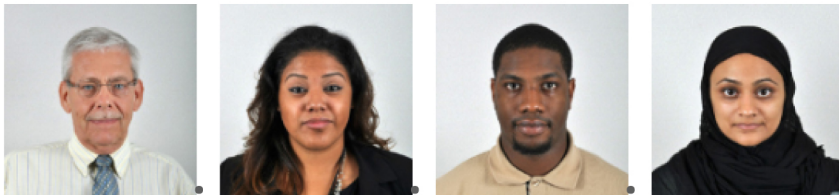


Passport Photo Examples

The Do's and Don'ts of U.S. Passport Photography: Submitting a high-quality photograph is an important part of a U.S. passport application. To learn more about the U.S. Department of State's guidelines for passport photos, watch this video and then review the information below to avoid passport processing delays.

Acceptable Passport Photos



Please review the tabs below and to the left for examples of both acceptable and unacceptable passport photos. Keep in mind: size, expression, head position, background, print quality, and anything that might obscure the face (hair, shadows, glare on glasses, etc).

Shadows and Lighting

Glasses

Size and Position

Resolution, Print Size,
and Quality

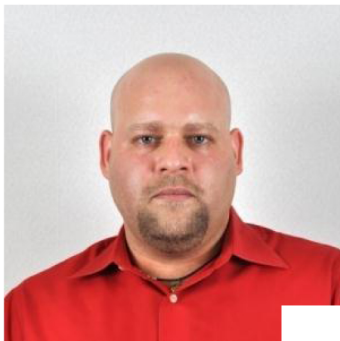
Digital Alterations
and Retouching

Pose and Expression

Attire, Hats and Hair

Background

Children



Acceptable—Photo is clear and in color, reproduces skin tones accurately, and is properly exposed with no shadows

Photo tip: n/a

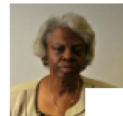
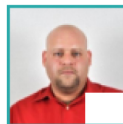
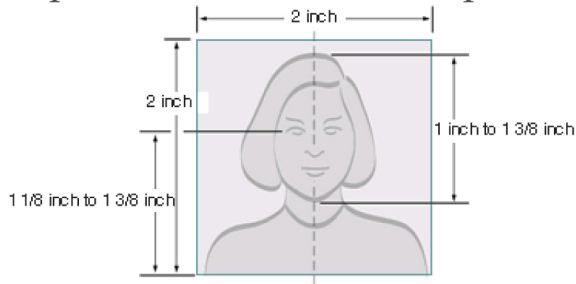


Photo Composition Template

- Make sure the photo presents the full head from the top of the hair to the bottom of the chin
- Center the head with the frame
- The person in the photo should have a neutral expression and be facing the camera

Paper Photo Head Size Template



- 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



Photo Requirements

You must provide 1 photo with your application

The processing of your passport application may be delayed if you do not submit a photo that meets the requirements below. To avoid processing delays, we recommend you use a professional passport photo service.

Your passport photo must be:

- In color
- Printed on matte or glossy photo quality paper
- 2 x 2 inches (51 x 51 mm) in size
- Sized such that the head is between 1 inch and 1 3/8 inches (between 25 and 35 mm) from the bottom of the chin to the top of the head. View the [Photo Composition Template](#) for more size requirement details.
- Taken within the last 6 months to reflect your current appearance
- Taken in front of a plain white or off-white background
- Taken in full-face view directly facing the camera
- Taken with a neutral facial expression (preferred) or a natural smile, and with both eyes open

MORE

Want to take a photo of yourself?

While we recommend you use a professional passport photo service to ensure your photo meets all the requirements, you may take the photo yourself. Hand-held self portraits are not acceptable. Photos must not be digitally enhanced or altered to change your appearance in any way. If you take the photo yourself with a digital camera, the digital image **must** adhere to the following specifications:

Dimensions The image dimensions must be in a square aspect ratio (the height must be equal to the width). Minimum acceptable dimensions are 600 x 600 pixels. Maximum acceptable dimensions are 1200 x 1200 pixels.

Color The image must be in color in sRGB color space which is the common output for most digital cameras.

Please review the following technical requirements and references for guidance on taking your own passport photo.

- [Photographer's Guide](#)
- [Photo Composition Template](#)

Want to scan an existing photo?

In addition to the digital image requirements, your existing photo must be:

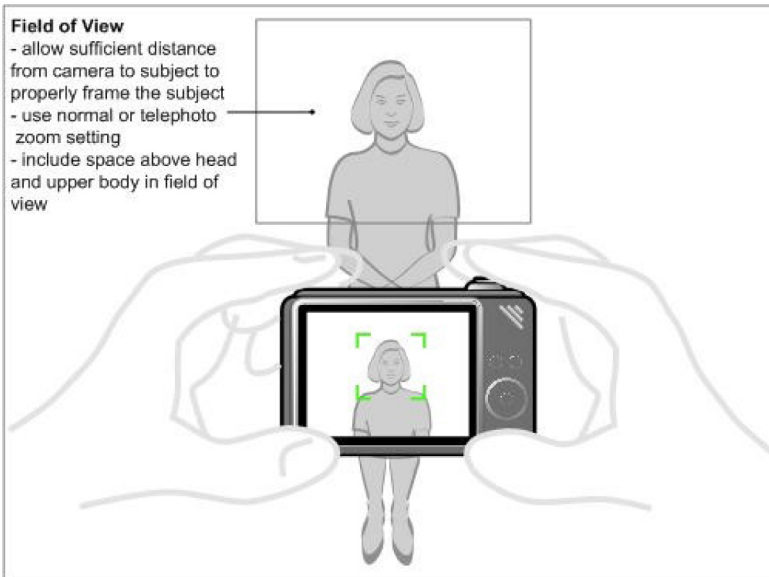
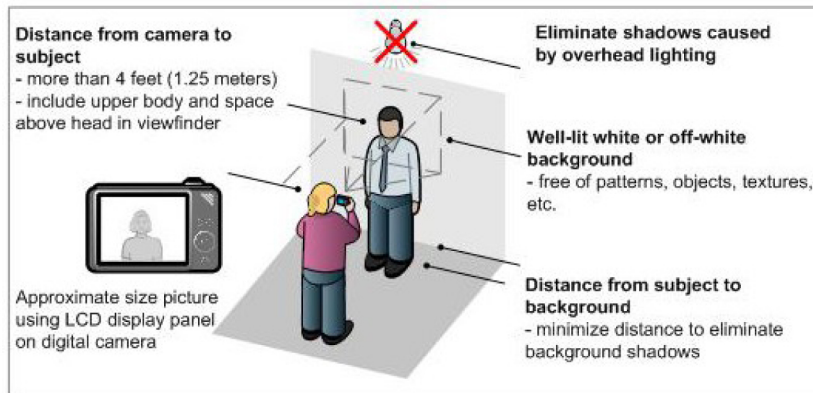
- 2 x 2 inches (51 x 51 mm)
- Scanned at a resolution of 300 pixels per inch (12 pixels per millimeter)

Photographer's Guide

Taking an acceptable photograph for your U.S. passport requires special attention to camera position and lighting.

Camera Position

- The camera should be placed at the eye level of the person being photographed and at least 4 feet (1.25 meters) away.
- Minimize the distance between the person being photographed and the background to reduce shadows on the background.
- Make sure to include the person's upper body and have space above the head in the viewfinder or screen display of your camera.
- Ensure the background is well lit, white or off-white, and free of patterns, objects, textures, etc.



Proper Lighting Arrangement and Background Illumination

If you are setting up a proper area to take photos, then consider:

- Positioning light sources on both sides of the person to avoid shadows on the face
- Using a light source to illuminate the background behind the person to avoid shadows on the background
- Try to eliminate shadows that are caused by overhead lighting

The lighting arrangement should consist of a minimum of three (3) points of illumination; two (2) points of illumination should be placed at approximately 45 degrees on either side of the subject's face, the third point should be placed so as to illuminate the background uniformly. The background should be uniformly illuminated to remove any shadows or other lighting effects that would otherwise interfere with clearly discerning the facial outline on the background.

