

F-1 Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

What is CPT?

CPT is a program that allows an international student holding an F-1 student visa to work off campus. The specific regulation defining this program is printed below.

8CFR Sec. 214.2(f)(10)(i) Curricular practical training programs.

An F-1 student may be authorized by the DSO to participate in a curricular practical training program that is an integral part of an established curriculum. Curricular practical training is defined to be alternative work/study, internship, cooperative education, or any other type of required internship or practicum that is offered by sponsoring employers through cooperative agreements with the school. Students who have received one year or more of full time curricular practical training are ineligible for post-completion academic training. Exceptions to the one academic year requirement are provided for students enrolled in graduate studies that require immediate participation in curricular practical training. A request for authorization for curricular practical training must be made to the DSO. A student may begin curricular practical training only after receiving his or her Form I-20 with the DSO endorsement.

(Revised effective 1/1/03; 67 FR 76256)

CPT Eligibility

- ✓ Work experience must be directly related to a student's major field of study.
- ✓ F1 student must have been enrolled for a full academic year (2 semesters), unless in graduate studies and immediate participation in CPT is required.
- ✓ Student may not work full time for a full year, if student wants to pursue OPT after graduation.

CPT Application Procedure

- ✓ Find an employer interested in hiring you for a position in your field of study. Obtain a signed offer letter from the employer which specifies the terms of employment (duration, number of hours per week, salary).
- ✓ Notify the department academic advisor about the possible position and seek confirmation on the CPT request form that it is directly related to a course or your course of study. If required for credit, register for the class, if needed, completing an independent study form.
- ✓ Make an appointment at the Office of International and Advanced Studies (OIAS) to have the new I-20 prepared and endorsed for CPT. Ask for a copy of your new I-20.