



Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

What is it?

Curricular Practical Training (CPT) is temporary employment on a full-time or part-time basis, which is *integral to an established curriculum*. CPT is defined as “alternate work/study, internship, cooperative education, or any other type of required internship or practicum which is offered by sponsoring employers through cooperative agreements with the school.” [8 C.F.R. 214.2 (f) (10) (i)]

Eligibility

- Must have been lawfully enrolled in an I.N.S. approved school on a full-time basis for 9 consecutive months as an F-1 student, or, as a student under another nonimmigrant status.
(*The 9-month provision can be waived for graduate students whose program of study requires immediate CPT.*)
- Must have an offer of employment from a specific employer for a specific location and time.
- *Must be an integral part of a student’s established curriculum* and approved by his or her academic advisor.
- Must receive credit for CPT participation.
- Designated School Official (DSO) must approve and record CPT 1-month prior the start date of work.
- Student must have a job offer.

Restrictions

- Part-time CPT (20 hours or less per week) requires students to be fully enrolled in an academic institution (no less than 12 hours).
- Full-time CPT, lasting 12 months, disqualifies eligibility for post-graduation OPT.

Approval Process

1. Student must have their academic advisor submit a Curricular Practical Training Academic Advisor Recommendation form to a D.S.O. in the Office of International Programs.
2. D.S.O. enters approved CPT into SEVIS and prints out a new I-20 page 3 with CPT authorization.

- **The approval process must be completed at least 1 month prior to the start date of CPT.**
- **CPT is authorized through page 3 of the I-20 with a DSO’s authorization for CPT. An Employment Authorization Card is not required.**