

# Curricular Practical Training Temporary Work Authorization for F-1 Students

## What is Curricular Practical Training (CPT)?

F-1 regulations define Curricular Practical Training as “alternate 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 university.” An International Student Advisor must authorize an F-1 student to participate in a curricular practical training program.

## Am I eligible for CPT?

If you are currently in F-1 status and have, at a minimum, been enrolled as a full-time student during the academic year previous to the request, you may be eligible for CPT. Graduate students in programs that **require** immediate participation in a work experience program are exempt from the academic year full-time enrollment requirement. Students not pursuing a formal degree program (e.g., ELP and Exchange Students) are ineligible for CPT.

## What are my options for CPT?

*There are two types of CPT:*

- ◇ **Required** Curricular Practical Training is an internship or practicum that you must complete to earn your degree. Some programs with an internship requirement that fall under the category of required CPT are Hotel & Restaurant Management, Public Administration, and certain tracks in Architecture.
- ◇ **For-credit** Curricular Practical Training allows you to earn academic credit toward your degree requirements in a job that is related to your field of study. It may be a required part of your degree program or an elective.  
**You must work with your Academic Advisor/Major Professor in designing a research project that you complete as part of the curricular practical training.**

Number of hours authorized:

- ◇ **Part-time** (20 hours per week or less)
- ◇ **Full-time** (Over 20 hours per week)

If you are planning to work on-campus at the same time you are authorized for CPT, please consult with an International Student Advisor.

## Length of time authorized:

Because of its unique relationship with the curriculum, there is no limit to the total (aggregate) time CPT may be authorized. However, CPT authorization is on a semester by semester basis.

## If I participate in Curricular Practical Training (CPT), will I lose my opportunity for Optional Practical Training (OPT) after I graduate?

If you have been authorized (in total) for one year or more of full-time Curricular Practical Training, you do not have any remaining Optional Practical Training (OPT) eligibility. Full-time CPT that has not met (or surpassed) the one year mark does not affect your eligibility for authorization of OPT. Part-time CPT currently does not affect your OPT eligibility.

**What will the ISC do?**

If the proposed activity meets the requirements for Curricular Practical Training and you are otherwise eligible, ISC will produce a new I-20 which will indicate your work authorization on page three.

**How will my employer know I am authorized to work under CPT?**

The I-20 (page three) indicates the dates you are authorized to work for that employer.

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