

Curricular Practical Training

Regulation

8 C.F.R. 214.2(f)(10)(i)

Curricular practical training. 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.**

Authorization

CPT is authorized by a Designated School Official at the International Center (typically the International Student Advisors) based upon a recommendation by the student's academic advisor and evidence of proper course registration.

Intended use of CPT

- CPT is intended to allow F-1 students to participate in training opportunities which would otherwise be unavailable to them due to their work restrictions.
- CPT is not intended for use as:
 - A means to circumvent the no on-campus employment rule (needs to have a clear academic connection)
 - A means to "buy time" before OPT—either to cover a gap until OPT authorization begins or to extend OPT time
- CPT authorization must be based on the academic program reflected in student's current Form I-20

Types of CPT employment

- Employment that is a requirement of a degree program
 - May be for course credit or not
 - Requirement must be documented in university catalog
- Employment that is not a requirement of a degree program but still integral to curriculum
 - Student and academic advisor must establish how employment is integral
 - Employment must related to a course for which the student receives credit
 - Course must be approved credit in student's department, must clearly indicate that employment is required component of course description
 - Co-op, internship, practicum credits most common
 - Reviewing options for using Independent Study/Directed study credits in some circumstances
 - Students are still obligated to maintain full-time enrollment during the regular semester

Eligibility

- Valid F-1 status for at least one academic year
- May be approved only for period before completion of degree

Undergraduate students

- Eligible for part time (20 hours or less) during academic year
- Eligible for full time authorization (over 20 hours) during school breaks and summer

Graduate students—Coursework not completed

- Eligible for part time (20 hours or less) during academic year
- Eligible for full time (over 20 hours) during school breaks and summer

Graduate students who have completed all coursework and for whom employment is not needed for completing thesis/dissertation requirements may apply for full time Optional Practical Training

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