

Curricular Practical Training Information & FAQ's

Curricular Practical Training (CPT) is off-campus work permission for F-1 international students who want to gain experience in their field of study. To obtain CPT, a student must:

- Be a valid F-1 immigration status for two semesters (one academic year), except students who must work upon beginning their degree and it is required by the department.
- Secure a job offer related to the student's field of study.
- Get CPT authorization BEFORE beginning employment,
- Be registered for classes.

Advisors at the ISSS office grant permission for CPT after establishing the student's eligibility and reviewing the application materials (see reverse for application procedures). The authorization is granted by issuing a new I-20 for the student with the employer's information notated on page 2 of the I-20. After the application for CPT is submitted the new I-20 is issued within 3 working days. The I-20 should be shown to the employer as evidence of work authorization.

There is no limit to the amount of CPT a student is eligible for. However, if 12 months or more of *full-time* CPT is used, a student forfeits their Optional Practical Training eligibility (for more information about OPT information, [click here](#)). Accrual of part-time CPT does not affect eligibility for OPT.

CPT is **not available** after a student completes a degree program.

Employment Which Is a Required Part of Your Degree Program:

- You are in an undergraduate field that requires an internship/practicum and have been at UofL for one academic year.
- You are a graduate student, and the proposed employment is a required part of your studies, you may apply for permission to engage in curricular practical training whenever your program requires your participation, even if it is immediately upon beginning your studies.
- You are maintaining lawful F-1 status, and

Employment Which Is Not a Required Part of Your Degree Program:

- Be in lawful F-1 status.
- Have been a full-time student for at least one academic year for both undergraduate and graduate students.
- English Language Students: Students enrolled in English language training programs are not eligible for curricular practical training.

Part-Time vs. Full-Time Curricular Practical Training:

Part-Time Training: Employment of 20 hours or less per week while you are also enrolled for full-time classes is considered "part-time" curricular practical training. In this case, the employment authorization on page 2 of your I-20 should specify permission to engage in "part-time" training, and you must be careful to limit your work to no more than 20 hours per week. There is no limitation on the length of time you may participate in part-time curricular practical training, but you must be enrolled in school during your training to maintain lawful F-1 status.

Full-Time Training: Employment of 20 hours or more per week is considered "full-time" curricular practical training. The employment authorization on page 2 of your I-20 should, in this case, specify permission to participate in "full-time" training. There is no limitation upon the length of time you may participate in full-time curricular practical training, but if you participate for twelve months or more you will not be eligible for optional practical training.

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The student may use an internship course or an approved Full-Time CPT to qualify for full-time enrollment. However, it must be capped at two successive semesters.