

Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

Application Information

Curricular Practical Training (CPT) is temporary authorization for practical training directly related to your major field of study—paid or unpaid. “Practical training” can include:

- Employment
- Internship experience (paid or unpaid)
- Cooperative (co-op) education experience
- Practicum participation

Eligibility:

- Must have remained enrolled for at least one academic year, in status and in good academic standing
- Employment must relate to student’s major area of study; may be full time or part time
- If you accumulate 12 months (365 or more days) of full-time CPT authorization, you lose your eligibility for Optional Practical Training (OPT). Part-time CPT authorization, or fewer than 12 months of full-time CPT authorization, does not affect your OPT eligibility

Steps:

1. Student secures a training position.
2. Request approval from DSO. DSO will make authorization by noting employer information in SEVIS and endorsing I-20.
3. If your CPT position is paid, apply for a social security number if you don’t already have one.

Once Approved:

- You may begin working immediately.
- You are only authorized to work for the specific employer, location, time period, and part time/full time basis as recorded on your I-20.