Curricular Practical Training (CPT) Information

Curricular Practical Training is authorization for students on F-1 visas to engage in paid or unpaid field internships, which are based on a credit-bearing course in the student's program of study; hence, the word "curricular". CPT is an optional benefit of the F-1 visa. **Students must receive CPT authorization and an updated I-20 indicating CPT authorization from ISSO before beginning the work/internship.**

General Eligibility Requirements for CPT

- The student must have been enrolled full time for at least one academic year.
- CPT must be in the student's area of study.
- CPT must be a required component of the student's degree program.
- CPT employment may occur anywhere in the United States and may be full time or part time.
- CPT is not available after completion of coursework.
- Engaging in CPT may not delay completion of coursework or graduation.
- Student who engage in 3 consecutive, full-time CPT segments will not be eligible for OPT.

Full-time vs. Part-time CPT and Enrollment Requirements

Full time
- Employment for more than 20 hours per week is considered full-time CPT.
- Full-time enrollment is not required for students participating in full-time CPT; however, students must be enrolled in the corresponding field internship course.
- Employment authorization generally will be issued only for the period concurrent with the internship course.

Part time
- Employment for less than 20 hours per week is considered part-time CPT.
- Students engaging in part-time CPT must be enrolled in a full course of study (4 courses for undergraduate students and 3 courses for graduate students).
- Employment authorization generally will be issued only for the period concurrent with the internship course.

How to Apply

Students must make an appointment with the ISSO and bring the following items:

- A copy of an approved CPT Internship Application
- A brief letter from the employer or internship host indicating their name and address, duties and dates of employment/internship offered. Whether or not the internship is paid or unpaid should also be indicated.