

The purpose of CPT is not to facilitate employment authorization but to allow students to participate in training related to their field of study. CPT must be approved by International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) *prior* to the CPT start date. Starting January 2018, students will only be permitted to engage in full-time CPT (20+ hours/term) during the summer vacation term.

**ELIGIBILITY:**

- Students must be approved for **one** of the options below:
  - The student is currently enrolled or has already completed a related course. Students will be required to confirm with their advisor that this course is relevant to their internship.
  - The internship is required to graduate. Students must enroll in required course.
  - The graduate student only is using this experience for dissertation/thesis research that cannot be completed on-campus. The student must have been in valid F-1 status and have been enrolled full time
- Authorization is employer and date specific. If there are any changes to the employer or dates, students must inform ISSS immediately.
- F-1 students who engage in 12 months or more of full-time curricular practical training, become ineligible for Optional Practical Training (OPT). Part-time CPT does not affect OPT.

**STUDENT APPLICATION PROCESS:**

1. Once you have determined that you are eligible for an internship, it is your job to make an appointment with your academic/faculty advisor and speak to them about the opportunity.
2. Visit the [Career Development Center](#) for assistance in finding an internship. The Career Development Center will not place you in an internship but will help you contact your employer, which states the start and end dates, hours per week, and a brief description of your responsibilities.
  - ii. Submit the [Faculty Approval Letter](#)
- \_\_\_\_\_ if doing thesis/dissertation research for CPT.
- 2) Turn in your CPT Request Form and required documents to ISSS. You should expect CPT authorization to take five business days. ISSS will provide you with a new I-20.
  - i. **Do not begin your employment without CPT authorization.**
- 3) You must keep ALL copies of your I-20s but you should only use the updated I-20 with CPT authorization for travel and re-entry to the United States.
- 4) A Social Security Number is required for all those who are employed in the United States. If you do not have one, you will need to [apply](#) for one.