

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
 - Exceptions:
 - Full-time co-op agreement
 - Program requirement
 - The number of credits a student receives is equal to full-time requirement (12 for undergraduate, 9 for graduate)
- 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
 - Exceptions:
 - Full-time co-op agreement
 - Program requirement
- Eligible for full time (over 20 hours) during school breaks and summer

Graduate students-Coursework completed

- Eligible for part time or full time under the following conditions:
 - Students with required internship
 - Students who demonstrate that employment is needed for the purpose of gathering data for thesis or dissertation

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

To be completed by academic advisor/Department Chair

As the student's academic advisor/Department Chair I recommend that this student be authorized to participate in the practical training program described. I certify that the employment is part of the student's degree program.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name and title: _____

Telephone: _____

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<http://und.edu/academics/international-center/>