

CURRICULAR PRACTICAL TRAINING (CPT)

This information is provided as an overview for current F-1 international students interested in employment options during their stay in the U.S. This information is subject to change without notice. For individual questions, please contact the International Student Services Office.

WHAT IS CPT?

Curricular Practical Training (CPT) is a benefit of the F-1 international student visa allowing authorization for temporary employment that is directly related to the student's program of study. CPT must be an "integral part of an established curriculum" and can be an internship, cooperative education or any other type of required practicum or clinical for which the student receives credit. The student is required to enroll in a course that provides academic credit to receive CPT authorization.

REQUIREMENTS TO OBTAIN CPT

The student must have completed one full academic year of study, be in good academic standing and be maintaining lawful F-1 student status. Student's studying in the English as a Second Language (ESL) program are not eligible. CPT can only be authorized prior to graduation and the student must be maintaining a full course of study. The student must have an offer of employment before receiving the CPT authorization. Employment authorization consists of an endorsement on the student's I-20 document by the International Student Services Office. CPT authorization must be obtained prior to beginning employment.

The student must attend a Practical Training Information Session prior to receiving CPT authorization.

PART TIME OR FULL TIME OPTIONS

CPT may be authorized for either part-time (20 hours or less per week) or full-time (more than 20 hours per week) employment. However, College of DuPage policies may hold limitations to the number of times a student may engage in either part time or full time CPT during their studies based on the requirements of the student's program.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Contact the International Student Services Office for further details and to register for a Practical Training Information Session at 630.942.3328 or intlstdt@cod.edu .