

# F1 OFF-CAMPUS WORK OPTIONS

## 1) Curricular Practical Training (CPT)-integral to curriculum

- Eligible after completing 1 academic year of full-time classes in the degree listed on I-20
- CPT is NOT a work program, the internship or training must be tied to the curriculum
- Participation in approved Cooperative Education program or enrollment in an internship class (an elective or required internship class must be listed on POS to establish the work is an “integral part of curriculum”)
- Must apply for CPT 1-2 weeks prior to intended start date of internship/Co-op
- CPT is authorized one semester at a time based on period of Co-op or internship enrollment
- Part-time CPT has NO effect on OPT eligibility, cumulative full-time of 12 months will void OPT eligibility
- CPT authorization is tied to the employment listed on your I-20 pg. 3
- Cannot work until I-20 listing the CPT authorization or EAD work permit is issued and in your hands

## 2) Severe Economic Hardship (SEH)-unforeseen hardship

- Student must meet with an international student advisor to discuss eligibility and process
- Immigration reviews and approves or denies work authorization

## 3) Optional Practical Training (OPT)-training in the field of study

- Eligible after completing 1 academic year of full-time classes in the degree listed on I-20
- Temporary work permission granted to F1 students to work in major area of study
- OPT is NOT an immigration status, still F1 while authorized for OPT
- Must follow F1 immigration laws for entire OPT period
- Violation of F1 status invalidates OPT
- Pre-completion allows a student to work PRIOR to completing the degree (part-time during fall/spring and full-time during summer semester)
- Post-completion allows a student to work upon the completion of the degree (only full-time)
- Extension of 17 months is available for *certain* students who graduate in STEM disciplines
- Timing of application depends on the type of OPT being requested
- Immigration processes OPT work permit after ISSO make a request in SEVIS and application is received in the appropriate immigration service center (30-90+ days from the date they receive a complete application)
- Maintenance of F1 status while on OPT is dependent on reporting changes in address, employment details, status, and name to the UAH International Student Advisor & maintaining employment
- No more than 90 days of unemployment with 12 month OPT and 120 days with 29 month OPT (extension)
- OPT has no limit on the jobs you can have, hours you can work, or amount of money you can make!

## IF YOU TRAVEL WHILE AUTHORIZED FOR OPT:

- Valid passport
- Valid F1 visa stamp (renewal can be risky)
- I-20 with current travel signature (< 6 months)
- Valid EAD work permit
- Verification of current employment

## OFF-CAMPUS WORK REVIEW:

- Off campus work authorization processing takes time and planning, consider all options before applying
- Not eligible for CPT or OPT unless you are making progress toward completion of your degree and post-completion OPT unless you complete your degree successfully