



F-1 CURRICULAR PRACTICAL TRAINING APPLICATION INSTRUCTION

Definition of Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

According to immigration regulation 8 CFR 214.2 (f)(10), an international student on F-1 visa may be authorized to participate in a practical training program to engage in temporary employment to gain practical experience in his or her field of study. Curricular Practical Training must be **an integral part of an established curriculum**, and 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. Eligible students can be either paid or unpaid through CPT.

Job Qualification for CPT

Since CPT is not convenient employment, but **an integral part of an established curriculum**, it is for the Academic Deans/Chairs/Advisors/Graduate Program Directors to decide if a job offer qualifies for CPT and how many semesters/sessions a student may be approved to participate in a CPT program for his/her curriculum. OISS will only issue CPT authorization on SEVIS based on the academic approvals.

Student Eligibility for CPT: International students are eligible for CPT if they

- ◆ have been lawfully enrolled in an academic degree program full-time for at least one academic year; (Graduate students whose academic curriculum **requires** all students to start an internship before completion of the first academic year may obtain CPT authorization sooner.)
- ◆ are in lawful F-1 status at the time of applying for CPT; and
- ◆ have an internship/job offer that is in the major field of study.

Full Time Class Enrollment Requirement While Authorized For CPT:

Unless curriculum requires otherwise, an F1 student at Rutgers must be simultaneously enrolled full-time in order to maintain lawful F-1 status while engaging in authorized CPT during Fall and Spring semesters. CPT is available only prior to the completion of a degree program, and CPT must end when curriculum ends.

Part Time CPT vs. Full Time CPT

Unless curriculum requires otherwise, an F1 student may be authorized for **Part Time CPT ONLY** during Fall and Spring semesters to engage in employment/internship for 20 hours or less per week .

An eligible F1 student may be authorized for **Full-time CPT ONLY in the summer and winter sessions** to engage in employment/internship for more than 20 hours per week.

Graduate students who have completed **ALL** coursework and are working on dissertation or theses may apply for full time CPT with Graduate Program Directors' written support which has to state the full time CPT is necessary for the students to complete the dissertation or theses.

*** Please be aware that 12 months or more of full-time CPT will cancel your eligibility for Optional Practical Training (OPT).**