

LEGAL WORK OPTIONS FOR F-1 STUDENTS

ON-CAMPUS WORK

- ❑ Allowed for F-1 and J-1 students in legal status
- ❑ Must be enrolled for classes
- ❑ May work only at university that controls your SEVIS record
- ❑ May begin work up to 30 days before classes start
- ❑ Work limited to 20 hours per week except during breaks and holidays
- ❑ No permission from USCIS or CIS is required
- ❑ Applications available at CIS
- ❑ Must apply for social security number

NEED BASED WORK PERMIT

- ❑ Must be in F-1 status 9 months to qualify
- ❑ Application Fee - \$410
- ❑ Apply to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service
Application processing time is 90 days plus –APPLY EARLY
- ❑ Application available at CIS
- ❑ Must complete application (Available at CIS Front Desk)
- ❑ Must document severe and unforeseen financial need
- ❑ A job offer is not required
- ❑ Not available after graduation
- ❑ Issued up to 12 months
- ❑ Renewal requires a new fee, application and documentation

OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING (OPT)

- ❑ Must be in F-1 status 9 months to qualify
- ❑ Must complete application (available at Center for International Students – CIS - Front Desk)
- ❑ Can do Pre or Post Completion OPT but most students save this to use upon completion of their degree
- ❑ May receive one year of OPT after each higher degree
- ❑ Job must relate to major area of study
- ❑ A job offer is not required to apply BUT you cannot accumulate more than 90 days of unemployment and remain in legal status
- ❑ Must report employment and changes in employment to the University during OPT
- ❑ Apply to United States Citizenship and Immigration Service
- ❑ Application Fee - \$410
- ❑ Application processing time is 90 days plus
- ❑ May apply 120 days before graduation and up to 60 days after graduation
- ❑ May request a start date of up to 60 days following graduation
- ❑ Must complete no later than 14 months after graduation

CURRICULAR PRACTICAL TRAINING (CPT)

- ❑ Good for summer internships
- ❑ Must be in F-1 status 9 months to qualify
- ❑ Must complete application (available at Center for International Students – CIS - Front Desk)
- ❑ Must have a written job offer
- ❑ Must enroll for internship credit through the academic division
- ❑ Must pay tuition for internship credit
- ❑ Maximum time available 11 months and 29 days or disqualified for Optional Practical Training
- ❑ Must complete application (available at Center for International students – CIS - Front Desk)
- ❑ Apply to CIS with proof of internship credit enrollment
- ❑ Application processing time is 2-3 business days.

