	CURRICULAR PRACTICAL TRAINING (CPT)	OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING (OPT)
WHAT IS IT?	Work authorization that allows you to accept employment **directly** related to, and integral to, your program.	Work authorization which allows you to accept employment **directly** related to your academic program before or after completion of studies.
ELIGIBILITY	- You must be in valid non-immigrant status for **one academic year** prior to requesting CPT. - You are currently maintaining your F-1 status and have a sufficient GPA. - Enrolled in an approved internship course for the semester in which CPT is requested. - The employment is directly related to your major field of study.	- You must be in valid non-immigrant status for **one academic year** prior to requesting OPT. - You are currently maintaining your F-1 status and have a sufficient GPA. - The employment is directly related to your major field of study.
PROCESS	1) Attend a CPT Group Advising/Info Session or review the presentation on the VIS website. 2) Register for an approved internship course. 3) Submit the CPT Request in accessVIS. 4) Receive your new Form I-20 recommending CPT from VIS.	1) Attend an OPT Group Advising/Info Session or review the presentation on the VIS website. 2) Undergraduates only – complete the Major/Minor Review Form. 3) Submit the Pre-Completion or Post-Completion OPT Request in accessVIS. 4) Complete the I-765 Tutorial in accessVIS (Post-Completion OPT only). 5) Receive your new Form I-20 recommending OPT from VIS. 6) File the Form I-765 with USCIS. 7) Report your employment and EAD card approval to VIS.
DURATION	Employment dates must correspond to the University's academic calendar. **Fall and Spring Semesters**: $\leq$ 20 hours/week **Vacation Periods**: $\geq$ 21 hours/week An accumulation of 12 months of full-time CPT makes you ineligible for OPT for that degree level.	You are eligible for **up to 12 months** of OPT which may be authorized prior to, and/or completion of a degree program. Certain STEM majors may be eligible for an additional 24 months of OPT. **Pre-Completion OPT**: May work $\leq$ 20 hours/week during the fall and spring semesters, or $\geq$ 21 hours/week during vacation periods. **Post-Completion OPT:** Must work full-time ($\geq$ 21 hours/week).
EMPLOYER REQUIREMENTS	Employers must issue an offer letter which includes the following: - Job title and description of duties - Dates of employment - Number of hours per week - Physical address of employment	OPT can be granted with or without an offer of employment.

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PROCESSING TIME	VIS processes all requests within 10 business days.	• VIS processes all requests within 10 business days. • USCIS processing time takes an average of 60-90 days. Check the USCIS website for the most up to date processing times.
COST	No cost to you or your employer.	• USCIS Processing Fee • $100 International Student Fee payable through SOLAR
PROOF OF AUTHORIZATION	The employer and dates for which you are authorized to work will be printed on page 2 of your new Form I-20.	• Employment Authorization Document (EAD card) issued by USCIS. Your EAD card specifies the dates of authorized employment. You may **not** begin working until you have received your EAD card <u>and</u> cannot begin prior to the start date on the card.
IMPORTANT REMINDERS	• An accumulation of 12 months of full-time CPT makes you ineligible for OPT for that degree level. • The work authorization will only be valid for the specific employer, location, duration, and on a part-time or full-time basis as approved and recorded by a VIS advisor **and evidenced on your I-20 issued for CPT.** • CPT cannot be authorized after course requirements, thesis/project or dissertation are completed.	• The earliest you can apply for Post-Completion OPT is 90 days prior to your completion date. The latest you can apply is four weeks after you complete your degree requirements to allow for adequate processing time. • VIS does not recommend traveling abroad (including Canada or Mexico) while your I-765 application is pending with USCIS.