



How many hours per week may I work during my program?

A common question raised by students is if they can work on campus and participate in authorized Curricular Practical Training (CPT) at the same time.

During required semesters (usually fall and spring), a student may work up to 20 hours per week. This includes both on and off-campus. During school breaks, as in summer and winter, there is no hourly limit.

There are three exceptions to the above policy:

1. When an academic program curriculum **requires** a full-time internship, the student may exceed 20 hours per week during the term.
2. When a student completes their degree during the summer term, employment is limited to 20 hours per week. This is because the summer term becomes a required term and is therefore not considered vacation.
3. Students who register for classes during the summer may have on-campus work hours limited by Human Resources policy.

What is Curricular Practical Training?

CPT permits a student to engage in experiential learning. The primary purpose of CPT is academic* and requires course registration. Students are expected to complete all academic requirements associated with CPT. Failure to fulfill the academic component of CPT could result in a delayed degree conferral and future immigration complications. While some CPT positions may lead to a future job offer, CPT is meant to be a learning opportunity. Students who are looking for ongoing part-time work while in school, in a position related to their major, should consider pre-completion Optional Practical Training (pre-OPT) work authorization.

***8 CFR 214.2(f)(10)(i)**

(i) *Curricular practical training.* An F-1 student may be authorized by the DSO to participate in a curricular practical training program that is an **integral part of an established curriculum**. Curricular practical training 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. ...A student may begin curricular practical training only after receiving their Form I-20 or successor form with the DSO endorsement. ..."

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