

## EMPLOYMENT POSSIBILITIES FOR F1 STUDENTS

The regulations of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) provide for three principle categories of employment benefits for students in F-1 status:

**On-Campus employment**  
**Curricular Practical Training (CPT)**  
**Optional Practical Training (OPT)**

### On-Campus Employment

You may work part-time (up to 20 hours per week) during the fall and spring semesters and full-time (up to 40 hours per week) during winter and summer breaks if you are in good academic standing, and you have been enrolled full-time. Information about jobs on campus can be found at The Student Employment Office is on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Campus Center.

### Curricular Practical Training

If you have been enrolled full-time for at least one academic year (two semesters) you are eligible to do an internship or practicum. Not all students have internships available to them in their programs. Internships, if available, can be identified in the course catalogue and must be approved by your department. You cannot do an internship without signing up for an internship or practicum course.

### Optional Practical Training

When you are nearing the completion of your program of study, you may apply to USCIS for 12 months of Post-Completion Optional Practical Training (OPT) authorization to accept employment related to your field of study. You should attend an OPT workshop during your final semester to learn more about this period of USCIS authorized training. It is not common, but possible, for students to begin OPT (Pre-Completion OPT) on a part-time basis after they have been enrolled full-time for two semesters.

***Please apply early. It may take the USCIS approximately three months to issue your OPT Employment Authorization Document (EAD).***

**To qualify for any of these employment benefits under F-1 visa regulations students must be in full-time status every semester with the exception of the final semester.**

***A Note on 'volunteering':*** The ISSS Office cautions F-1 students about "volunteering" in a position which would normally be paid; "volunteering" should be restricted to true volunteer activities, such as volunteering with social service organizations, religious organizations, service learning, etc.