Curricular Practical Training (CPT) for F-1 Visa Holders

Curricular Practical Training (CPT) enables F-1 student to gain off-campus employment authorization in the U.S. for intern, extern, research assistant, etc., as long as curricular credit requirements are met. Student who has received 12 months or more of full-time CPT is ineligible for post-completion (after graduation) Optional Practical Training (OPT). A request for CPT authorization must be made to a Designated School Official (DSO), not a government agency. There is no application fee. A student may begin employment only after receiving a new I-20 with CPT approved.

CPT employment, paid or unpaid, must relate to your program of study or major and you must take a required independent or other approved course to satisfy the curricular credit requirement. CPT is not authorized for concentrations. Failure to register and complete the required course will jeopardize your student status. CPT is not required for employment at Carleton during the holiday breaks. Exchange students and those who will not return to Carleton the following term are not eligible for CPT.

A student must register for an independent reading (290 or 390), study (291 or 391), research (292 or 392), or other course approved by the department that requires an internship/externship, research project, or other curricular experience. Student must register for a minimum of 1 credit for a course related to Winter or Spring Break CPT, and a minimum of 3 credits for Summer Break while school is in session. Math majors may register for Math 297 and biology majors may register for Bio 395, other course is repeatable as long as the content changes.

Employment completed during the summer, winter, or spring break, requires course registration in the following fall, winter, or spring term. CPT authorization is required for a participant in an approved Carleton off-campus program in the U.S. where an internship or other work experience is also required; the course runs concurrently with the off-campus program. CPT may be authorized during Carleton’s academic terms but student must register for the required course each term and employment authorization is for only one term at a time.

To qualify for CPT authorization a student must meet the following conditions:

- Maintain valid immigration status before applying for CPT.
- Enroll full-time in a degree program for a full academic year (10 consecutive months).
- Have a job offer that your academic department verifies is practical work experience in your major.
- Some majors may limit the number of internships and thus CPT course; check with your department.

### Part-time CPT

| Part-time CPT is less than 20 hours per week. Part-time CPT does not affect Optional Practical Training (OPT). |
| Full-time CPT is for more than 20 hours of work per week. Students with 12 months or more of full-time CPT are not eligible for OPT. |

### CPT Application Process:

1. Obtain employment and attach signed offer letter to CPT Endorsement Form. Letter should include: job title, paid or unpaid, expected work hours (see above), employment start and end date, employer’s address, supervisor’s name with telephone and email contact.
2. Have your professor complete his/her part of the CPT Endorsement Form to verify the department’s approval of your CPT and the required course taken for credit.
3. Set-up an appointment to meet with a Designated School Official (DSO) and bring the CPT Endorsement Form, passport and current I-20 with you.
4. Allow 5 business days for your new I-20 to be processed that authorizes CPT employment.
5. Present the new I-20, passport, and I-94 (print out electronic copy [https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/request.html](https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/request.html)) to your employer so they can verify your employment eligibility on the I-9 form as needed.
6. Register for your independent reading, study, research, or other approved course by the required drop/add deadline [http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/registrar/student/registrationforms/](http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/registrar/student/registrationforms/).

Repeat previous steps if you extend employment period or change employers. To prevent a break in employment eligibility, apply at least two weeks before your current CPT authorization expires. Working before or beyond the authorized dates of employment would be a violation of your student status. Also, keep your address updated by contacting Brisa Zubia, bzubia@carleton.edu or 1-507-222-7488.

Version May 2014
U.S. Taxes and CPT - In general F-1 student who has been in the U.S. for five years or less is exempt from Social Security taxes (also known as F.I.C.A. tax). Bring this to the attention of your employer because many employers are not familiar with this provision of the tax laws, and may deduct F.I.C.A. tax from your pay. Student in F-1 status is subject to all other taxes that may apply, including federal, state and local. If you will be paid, you will want to make sure your employer sends you a W-2, 1099 or other income statement for your tax return.

Social Security Number – If you do not have a SSN, you may need to apply for one. See the office for assistance.

Student and supervising faculty member must complete the form in order to process the student’s request for Curricular Practical Training, which may be a required or optional component of the student’s curriculum and related to the student’s major area of study. Authorization for employment under CPT requires that the student be registered in a course for credit to run concurrent with the position (if it is an approved domestic off-campus program or while school is in session) or the term following the employment if done during a vacation period.

1. Student Information
   Last Name ___________________________ First Name ___________________________
   Cell/Telephone Number ___________________________ Email ___________________________
   Applied for CPT previously? Y or N If Yes, when ___________________________
   Do you have Social Security Number? Y or N If Yes, SSN# ___________________________
   Address while on CPT Street ___________________________ City ___________________________ State & Zip Code ___________________________

2. Employer Information (Attach employment offer letter.)
   Employer ___________________________
   Supervisor Name ___________________________
   Telephone Number ___________________________ Email ___________________________
   Employer’s Address Street ___________________________ City ___________________________ State & Zip Code ___________________________
   Start Date ___________________________ End Date ___________________________
   Number of Hours/Week ___________________________ Is position paid? Y or N

3. Academic Verification

The information below verifies a student’s MAJOR and employment is recommended.

Major ___________________________________________ Student will register for course number/name ___________________________

Professor teaching/supervising the course in major ___________________________________________

Professor’s Signature ___________________________ Date ___________________________

Professor’s Telephone ___________________________ Professor’s Email ___________________________