## Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

### Definition of CPT:
Curricular Practical Training (CPT) is defined in the Code of Federal Regulation 8CFR214.2(f)(10)(i) as “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.” The regulations further state that CPT must be “an integral part of an established curriculum.”

### CPT Eligibility
The applicant:
1. Must have completed one academic year of study in the United States (including approved study abroad).
2. Must be enrolled in a full course of study, 12 or 8 units alternatively for undergraduate or graduate student, during the semester for which CPT is being applied for.
3. May not enroll only in a CPT course during their last semester.
4. Must apply for CPT during the ADD/DROP period and before the end of the second week of the semester.
5. Graduate students must have, at a minimum, a 3.0 cumulative GPA.
6. Undergraduates must have, at a minimum, a 2.0 cumulative GPA.

### Internship or Independent Study
To be authorized for CPT, a student must enroll in an internship or independent study course within her/his major or through Regional and Continuing Education Office. Enrollment and payment of appropriate fees is necessary for each term (summer, intersession, fall and spring) during which the student applies for CPT.

### Graduate Students Only
Graduate Students who have completed ALL course work, except the thesis or final project, are eligible to apply for OPT and begin OPT while completing the thesis or final project.

### Part-Time CPT
A student enrolled in a full-course of study may be authorized for Part-Time CPT (20 hours or less per week) during the fall or spring semesters.

### Full-Time CPT
During summer, or intersession, a student may be authorized for Full-Time CPT (20 hours or more a week). A student may enroll in a maximum of 6 units if authorized for Full-Time CPT.

### Effects of CPT on OPT Eligibility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPT Part-Time</th>
<th>None. Part-Time CPT does not affect OPT eligibility. The cumulative length of Part-Time CPT has no relevance to OPT.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPT Full-Time</td>
<td>If a student works for 12 months, they lose eligibility for OPT. Note that any part of a month counts for that particular month.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Authorization</td>
<td>A student may begin CPT only on the date indicated on the I-20 by the International Student Advisor (DSO). The I-20 will show the start and end dates of CPT and the name and address of the employer. It is illegal to work without the authorization on the I-20.</td>
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