



OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL SERVICES

University Center for International Studies
University of Pittsburgh

Curricular Practical Training (CPT) Information

Curricular Practical Training (CPT) is defined as employment which is an **“integral part of an established curriculum, including: alternate work/study, internship, cooperative education, or any other type of required internship or practicum which is offered by sponsoring employers through cooperative agreements with the school.”** *Source: 8 CFR 214.2(f)(10)(i)*

As per federal regulations, CPT is a benefit extended to F-1 students only, and does require an offer letter prior to authorization. CPT can only be granted after a student has been lawfully enrolled on a full-time basis for one academic year (i.e. two full consecutive semesters). Exceptions to this can only be made for graduate students in a program which *requires* immediate practical training.

CPT may be full-time (more than 20 hours/week) or part-time (20 hours/week or less). Use of 12 months or more of full-time CPT will prohibit the student from applying for OPT. Use of part-time CPT does not affect OPT eligibility.

Additional guidelines for CPT eligibility are listed in My OIS (my.ois.pitt.edu). After you have reviewed the CPT guidelines in My OIS, contact your Immigration Specialist to discuss additional questions.