CPT FOR F-1 STUDENTS
Curricular Practical Training (CPT) is an alternate work-study experience, internship, cooperative education, or employment in an F-1 student’s major field of study. Students must either be required to participate or earn an academic credit in order to qualify for CPT.
ELIGIBILITY
FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

- Must have a declared major
- Must be in full-time status and good academic standing for two consecutive semesters
- Must either be required by their major or receive academic credit
- Must have a Tufts faculty member supervise and approve the academic nature of the CPT
- Training must be related to area of study
ELIGIBILITY
FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

- Must have been in full-time status and good academic standing for two consecutive semesters
- Must either be required by their major or receive academic credit
- Must have a Tufts faculty advisor supervise and approve the academic nature of the CPT
- Training must be related to area of study
Students must register for an internship, independent study, or CPT-specific course within their department which will be associated with their CPT authorization. Students must register for a class associated with CPT before submitting their CPT request to the I-Center.

CPT authorization will be granted one semester at a time based on the academic calendar from September through May.
Between May and August, students must register for an internship through Tufts Summer Session. You must use the registration form to register for your course. Do not register for the course online.

This .5 credit course has a reduced cost as well as a registration fee. Please note that to earn a full (1) credit during the summer, students must pay the tuition of a full course credit. Students cannot register for the course until the CPT has been approved by the International Center.

Once your CPT is approved, your international student advisor will sign the Summer Session Registration Form to present to Student Services. This must be done within 3 business days of the CPT approval from the I-Center, otherwise your authorization to work will be cancelled. Students must register before the first day of either first summer session or second summer session, or a late fee will be applied.

Students enrolling in an FMS internship course for CPT should contact the FMS department and will not be eligible for the reduced cost.
If the internship experience is not required for your program, make sure that your Academic Department allows students to take internship opportunities for credit.

Secure an internship that is directly related to your major area of study.

Confirm that your employer will work with you to complete the CPT application and support the academic component of the internship.

Submit your CPT application to the I-Center prior to beginning employment. Secure housing and financial means to pay for the CPT course fee if necessary.
Authorization
CPT authorization falls within the academic semester, the first day of classes to the last day of classes

SEVIS
CPT must be registered with SEVIS and will be listed on page 2 of your new Form I-20

I-20
You must have an I-Center endorsed I-20 before starting CPT
CPT FOR F-1 STUDENTS

RULES AND PROCEDURES

Employment & Eligibility

• The CPT will be authorized for employment if you earn credit.
• Some specific programs of study require CPT without earning credits.
• You are eligible for CPT if you have been lawfully enrolled on full-time basis in a degree program for at least one academic year

Part-time vs. Full-time

• If you become authorized for part-time CPT, you may not work more than 20 hours per week and if you do so you will be in violation of your F-1 status.
• If you are authorized for full-time CPT, you may work unlimited hours for the CPT employer.
• Full-time CPT for an aggregate of 12 months makes you ineligible for OPT
Course Registration Requirement
• You must remain registered for the CPT course for the entire semester or summer session for which the CPT will take place.
• You are required to register for a full-time credit load (3 credits or more) if you engage in part-time CPT during the Fall or Spring semester

Grading
• The site supervisors should offer an evaluation of the performance, but the academic supervisor has the ultimate responsibility for grading
Supervisor Requirement

- You must have a faculty sponsor and a professional level supervisor at the work site.

- You are expected to consult with the faculty advisor periodically throughout the duration of CPT.

- There should be periodic contact between the faculty sponsor and the on-site supervisor during CPT to verify that obligations are being fulfilled and to develop an optimum learning experience.
Authorization Specifications

• CPT is authorized for a specific employer and you may not work for any other employer during this period without additional CPT authorization from the International Center.

• The authorization is date specific and you may not begin work till the start date and must end work on or before the end date of the CPT authorization.

• Unless placement is a required part of the curriculum, repeat authorization for a new semester must consist of additional academic and training tasks, requirements, and/or objectives.

• You may not lawfully begin employment until an International Center advisor has granted CPT employment authorization. To do so constitutes a serious violation of your immigration status.
CPT FOR F-1 STUDENTS

HOW TO APPLY

Work with Academic Advisor to Find CPT Course

Submit CPT application to the I-Center before deadline

• Register CPT for Fall and Spring Semester, if applicable

I-Center issues a CPT I-20 and signs Summer Registration Form within two weeks of submission date

• For Summer CPT, please include CPT Summer Session Registration Form

Begin Employment

• Take Summer Registration Form to Student Services, if applicable
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I need CPT if I am volunteering for the company/organization?
- Yes, you need employment authorization to engage in any type of work. Volunteering might be allowed in certain instances that involves philanthropic work in very specific non-profits. Please talk to your I-Center advisor for more information about volunteering.

Do I need to apply for CPT if my internship is unpaid?
- Yes, you need to obtain CPT authorization for unpaid positions.

Can I request CPT after returning from a leave of absence?
- In general students cannot apply for CPT after a leave of absence. This restriction may vary depending on the situation. Please consult with your I-Center advisor.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I have been offered a second internship experience by my current CPT employer. Do I have to submit a new CPT application?
- Yes, you must submit a new application and ensure that your new internship is not a repetition of the previous position. The offer letter must state what new skills, techniques, and responsibilities you will obtain in the new position.

Can I work full-time at my CPT internship over Spring Break?
- You can only engage in full-time employment during CPT if your received authorization for full-time employment when you initially applied for the benefit.

Can I use CPT while I wait for my post-completion OPT approval?
- No, you cannot request CPT after you have completed your degree requirements.
FURTHER QUESTIONS?

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