

COMPARISON OF F-1 EMPLOYMENT OPTIONS

	ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT	OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING (OPT)	CURRICULAR PRACTICAL TRAINING (CPT)	SEVERE ECONOMIC HARDSHIP EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION
Eligibility Criteria	Must maintain legal F-1 status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be a full-time student for at least one academic year. • Can perform OPT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Full- or part-time during summer vacation ○ Part-time while school is in session ○ Full- or part-time after completion of coursework (excluding theses or the equivalent) ○ Full-time after completion of study • Must apply for OPT before completion of study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be a full-time student for at least two consecutive semesters • Must be required as a graduation requirements or be an integral part of the curriculum. (Course must be approved by the academic unit) • Available only before completion of study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have one academic year of F-1 status • Employment must not interfere with full course of study • Available only before completion of study
Maximum Length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 20 hours per week during the term • Full-time work allowed during annual vacation and term breaks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 months • 24 months STEM Extension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full- or part-time work allowed • 12 months if Full-time 	Generated 1 year at a time or until your program end date, whichever is shorter
Advantages	Before completion of study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No permission required • Work does not have to be related to the field of study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No job offer required • Flexible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No fee • Authorized by the Office of International Affairs 	Work does not have to be related to the field of study
Disadvantages	Before completion of study, employment must be located at the U-M Dearborn campus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time used before completion of study will be subtracted from the maximum 12-month limit • Work should be related to the field of study • Application must be received by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) at a determined time frame and the USCIS must approve decision prior to employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full-time CPT for 12 months or more disqualifies the student from OPT • Job offer required • Must be enrolled in the eligible course while engaging in CPT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must demonstrate severe economic hardship due to unforeseen circumstances • Application must be received by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and the USCIS must approve prior to employment
Documentation Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valid U-M Dearborn I-20 • Valid passport • I-94 card 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OPT recommendation request with letter from academic advisor • Apply for OPT via USCIS online portal account with OPT I-20, I-765, fee, passport-style photos, passport, visa, I-94, EAD (if applicable) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEVIS I-20 • CPT request form • Job offer • Proof of registration for CPT course • Permission from your academic or research advisor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEVIS I-20 • I-765 and fee • 2 passport-style photos • Documents proving economic hardship