

Broadcast Message: Curricular Practical Training Reminders

To: All SEVIS Users

Date: July 3, 2019

Re: Curricular Practical Training Reminders

Number: 1907-01

General Information

The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) is aware of recent delays in processing optional practical training (OPT) authorization requests. While SEVP understands that SEVP-certified schools want to determine solutions to assist international students, please keep in mind that curricular practical training (CPT) must be an integral part of an existing curriculum and must be implemented in accordance with federal regulations. Therefore, we are providing reminders to clarify the requirements of those existing regulations.

There are two types of practical training available to F-1 students: CPT and OPT. CPT is an alternative work/study, internship, cooperative education or other type of required practicum that a sponsoring employer offers through agreements with a student's college or university.

Here's what students and school officials need to know about CPT:

- Occurs *before* a student's program end date on the [Form I-20, "Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status."](#)
- Must relate directly to the student's major area of study and **be an integral part of the school's established curriculum**. Can be full-time (more than 20 hours per week) or part-time.
- A student's designated school official (DSO) authorizes CPT in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS).
- Students must secure the training opportunity *before* CPT can be authorized.
- One year or more of full-time CPT **eliminates students' OPT eligibility** at the same educational level.
- Student can have more than one CPT authorization at the same time. However, CPT authorization is needed for each employer and each time period.
- CPT requires a signed cooperative agreement or letter from the employer.

For case-specific questions, please contact the [Student and Exchange Visitor Program Response Center](#). Download the new [Curricular Practical Training Fact Sheet](#) on [ICE.gov/SEVP](#) for more information.

Comments

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