F1 Curricular Practical Training (CPT) Application

In F1 student status, you may use Curricular Practical Training to obtain off-campus work authorization for internships or other work IN YOUR MAJOR FIELD. You are eligible for CPT if you will have been enrolled in your academic program for a full academic year by the start of the internship, and you have valid F1 status. Your degree program must require this off campus employment, OR your must be able to register for a credit bearing course that requires the employment for the course. Usually students will do an internship in the summer, and take the course in the following fall semester. In order to apply, you must first have a job offer, then, follow the instructions below.

Step One

• Fill out the student information and internship information sections of the attached CPT recommendation form COMPLETELY, and then have your advisor, course professor, or co-op office fill out the middle section of the form. Your advisor must fill out the middle section of the form (not you). (NOTE: If you are taking NMI 510, LAW 673 or ILR 599, you do NOT fill in this form, instead apply at: http://isso.cornell.edu/students/working-us/f1-internships-cpt)

Step Two

• It is best if you apply for CPT authorization at least two weeks before you plan on beginning your job. Come to the ISSO with your application and sign in to speak with the advisor on duty. The advisor on duty will create a new I-20 for you.
F-1 CURRICULAR PRACTICAL TRAINING
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is Curricular Practical Training?
Curricular Practical Training is work authorization for employment that is required by your degree program, required for a credit-bearing course, or required for your dissertation. The ISSO advisors authorize it.

2. What are the eligibility criteria for Curricular Practical Training?
In addition to academic requirement above, you have to have been enrolled in your program for a full academic year by the start of the internship, and have maintained valid immigration status. Graduate students whose degree curriculum requires immediate participation in an off campus work experience may be able to work before the academic year is complete IF this requirement is CLEARLY stated in the published program description.

3. Do I have to be registered while on Curricular Practical Training?
You do not have to be registered while on CPT in the summer; however, if you are registered as a full time student (both grad or undergrad) or registered in absentia (grad only) you can only work part time INCLUDING any time you already are working as a TA or RA. Part time work is 20 hours or less per week.

4. Does CPT impact the amount of allowed Optional Practical Training?
If a student qualifies for CPT, s/he may use up to eleven months of full-time CPT without it affecting Optional Practical Training. However, if a student uses a total of 12 months or more of full-time CPT, it cancels out all Optional Practical Training time. Part-time CPT does not count towards this limit.

5. What is considered part-time training?
Employment for 20 hours or less per week while you are enrolled for classes is considered part-time curricular practical training. The employment authorization written on the back of your I-20 copy will specify permission to engage in part-time training and you must limit your work to no more than 20 hours per week. You must be simultaneously enrolled as a full-time student in order to maintain lawful F1 status during the Fall and Spring semesters.

6. What is considered full-time training?
Employment for more than 20 hours per week is considered full-time curricular practical training. The employment authorization on your I-20 copy will specify permission to participate in full-time training.

7. Do I have to pay US taxes on my salary?
In general F1 students who have been in the U.S. for five years or less are exempt from social security taxes (also known as FICA tax). You should be sure to bring this to the attention of your employer because many employers are not familiar with this provision of the tax laws. Students in F1 status are subject to all other taxes that may apply, including federal, state and local.

8. What proof of employment authorization can I give my employer?
Your I-20 form authorized for curricular practical training is the document that indicates employment authorization. You should bring your I-20 form, passport and I-94 card or print out (from www.cbp.gov/i94) to your employer. These documents will allow your employer to complete the Employment Eligibility Verification Form I-9 which all employers are required to complete.
Academic Advisor’s
Recommendation Form for International F-1 Student
"Curricular Practical Training"

This form provides the ISSO with information required to grant “CPT” work authorization to an international student in F-1 visa status. If the student will be taking NMI5100, Law673, or ILR5990, this form does NOT need to be completed—the application is on line on our website. For all other students, the student’s academic adviser or course instructor or co-op office must complete section 2 and sign this form.

STUDENT INFORMATION: Name: ___________________________________________________________________
Major Field: _____________________ SEVIS id# (upper right corner of I-20): N______________________

1. INTERNSHIP INFORMATION: Company Name: ______________________________________________________
Job Location Address –this must be the actual street address of where you are working (INCLUDE ZIP CODE): _____________________________zip code: _____________________________
Number of hours per week: ____ Begin Date (no sooner than the end of you exams): _________________________
End Date (for summer work, end date cannot be later than the day BEFORE classes start): _________________________

2. CURRICULAR CREDIT FOR THE INTERNSHIP: In order for the student to qualify for curricular practical training, the student MUST either get credit in a course (such as an internship course or an independent study) or the work MUST be required for the degree or dissertation. An academic advisor MUST certify and check ONE of the following (A-D) [note this form does NOT need to be completed if the student is taking NMI 5100, Law 673 or ILR 5990]:

A)_____ The student will earn credit in a course. (The course must be taken EITHER concurrently or in the semester immediately following the internship.)
Course Title & Number: ____________________________ Semester student will take course: _______________________

B) _____ The work is required for the student’s degree program. (this must be a written part of the requirements for the degree listed in Cornell’s “programs of study”). Degree level and field: ____________________________

C) _____ The work will form an integral part of the research for this graduate student’s thesis or dissertation. Explain how the research will form a part of the thesis or dissertation. [PLEASE NOTE: The work cannot simply be RELATED to the thesis, it must be an INTEGRAL part of the research]:
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

D) _______ This work is part of the Engineering Co-op program.

Academic Advisor / Course Instructor / Co-op Office Certification:

As the student’s Academic Adviser, Course Instructor or Co-op Office, by signing this form, you are certifying that this employment IS REQUIRED FOR THE ACADEMIC CREDIT in the way detailed above. This is a legal requirement of “Curricular Practical Training” work authorization.

Date ______________________
Signature of the Academic Adviser / Instructor of Course / Co-op Office