



On & Off-Campus Employment Options

USCIS (United States Citizenship and Immigration Services) permits F-1s to work within specific limitations. Students are required to apply for a [Social Security Number \(SSN\)](#) if employed in the US.

- Students are **required to contact a DSO** prior to starting employment and should also review [USCIS F-1 Student On-Campus Guidelines](#).

	ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT	OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING (OPT)	CURRICULAR PRACTICAL TRAINING (CPT)	ECONOMIC HARDSHIP EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION
Eligibility Criteria to Apply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valid F1 status; in good academic standing with a cumulative GPA of 2.25 or above Must have an employment offer Social Security Number (SSN) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valid F1 status; in good academic standing with a cumulative GPA of 2.25 or above Post-OPT: Must apply for OPT before completion of study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valid F1 status; in good academic standing with a cumulative GPA of 2.25 or above Must be a program requirement or an integral part of the curriculum Eligible prior to graduation only Internship offer required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valid F1 status; in good academic standing with a cumulative GPA of 2.25 or above Cannot interfere with a full course of study Must prove economic hardship
Maximum Length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 hours/week while school is in session 40 hours/week during school breaks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre/Post-OPT: Up to 12 months and 20 hours/week while school is in session and 40 hours during school breaks Post-OPT: 12 months, full or part-time (24-month OPT STEM extension available after 12 months) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 hours/week while school is in session and 40 hours during school breaks Up to one year (approved by term) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved 1 year at a time or until program completion 20 hours/week while school is in session and 40 hours during school breaks
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligibility starts the first term No USCIS approval required Does not have to be related to the field of study Does not count towards CPT or OPT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No job offer is required prior to applying Pre-OPT available prior to graduation Post-OPT available after graduation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No USCIS application or fee Can request up to one year of internship (approved by term) 	Does not have to be related to the field of study
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be employed directly by Florida Poly and work on the school's premises Can work only 20 hours per week while school is in session Cannot work after graduation, during a 60-day grace period after graduation, or if on academic probation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USCIS application and fee Must be related to the field of study Pre-OPT time deducted from post-OPT eligibility Cannot work until EAD card is received Pre-OPT: Cannot work after graduation, during a 60-day grace period after graduation, or if on academic probation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 12 months of full-time = OPT ineligibility Job offer letter required Must enroll in the required course Cannot work after graduation, during a 60-day grace period after graduation, or if on academic probation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must demonstrate severe economic hardship due to unforeseen circumstances Cannot work until EAD card is received Cannot work after graduation or during the 60-day grace period after graduation, or if on academic probation
Documentation Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ISS SSN Letter Request Job offer letter SSN Card Valid passport and visa I-94 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ISS OPT Request SEVIS I-20 & I-94 USCIS application process and fee Valid passport and visa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPT Request SEVIS I-20 Job offer letter Enrollment in the required internship course Valid passport and visa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ISS Economic Request SEVIS I-20 & I-94 USCIS application process and Fee Valid passport and visa Economic hardship statement