



F-1 students may be authorized for employment in the United States [within specific guidelines](#). Students must **contact a DSO** prior to participating in employment/internships/volunteerism to verify eligibility and the steps to apply. Criteria include maintaining F-1 and the required satisfactory academic standards.

On-Campus Employment

- Eligibility is effective the **first semester** at Florida Polytechnic University.
- Students are responsible for conducting [job search](#); hiring is **not** guaranteed.
- Employment **must** meet [regulations](#) for on-campus employment.
- Copy of employment offer letter **must** be sent to ISS **prior to working**.
- Can work up to 20 hours per week while school is in session, and up to 40 hours per week during school closures (e.g., summer/spring/winter breaks).
- Not required to be major related and does not count towards CPT or OPT.

Severe Economic Hardship (Off-Campus Employment)

- Must** complete one academic year as a F-1 student to be eligible to apply.
- Students **must** make a good faith effort to locate employment on campus before applying ([verification required](#)).
- Students **must** provide [evidence of economic hardship](#) based on **unforeseen** circumstances beyond their control.
- Students may work up to 20 hours per week.
- Requires DSO recommendation, USCIS application and fee.
- Cannot work until approved by USCIS ([can take three months or more](#))

Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

- Must** complete one academic year as a F-1 student to be eligible [to apply](#).
- Requires** DSO, Registrar, and Internship Coordinator approval.
- Internship is required **prior** to approval.
- Must** be directly related to the student's field of study.
- Students **must** be enrolled in the required internship course to participate.
- [CPT](#) can be part-time or full-time; however, **one-year of full-time CPT** results in the **ineligibility** for post-completion OPT (post-OPT).
- CPT can be approved for up to one academic year; an extension must be requested thereafter.

Volunteerism

- F-1 students may engage in volunteerism if it meets the criterion for performing civically charitable or humanitarian work without promise, expectation or receipt of any form of compensation.
- Volunteerism cannot be related to a student's field of study.
- Work that is **not** charitable/humanitarian or relates to the student's field of study is classified as **unpaid work**, which **requires** CPT approval.
- The [F-1 Volunteer Verification Form](#) must be submitted for DSO approval with the required evidence.
- You may view the US Department of Labor (DOL) [volunteer guidelines](#).

Pre-Completion Optional Practical Training (pre-OPT)

- Must** complete one academic year as a F-1 student to be eligible to apply.
- Must** be directly related to the student's field of study.
- A job offer is not required to apply but pre-OPT will be counted towards unemployment eligibility and deducted from post-OPT whether employment is secured or not.
- Requires DSO recommendation, USCIS application and fee.
- Cannot work until approved by USCIS ([can take three months or more](#))
- Eligible to work for **up to 12 months**; students may work 20 hours per week while school is in session and full-time while school is not session.
- Pre-OPT employment **will be deducted** from post-OPT eligibility, **regardless** of full or part-time work.

Post-Completion Optional Practical Training (post-OPT)

- F-1 students are eligible after they complete their program of study.
- Must** be directly related to the program of study.
- Eligible to apply up to 90 days **prior** to the I-20 program end date.
- A job offer is not required to apply; however, students have up to 90 days to secure employment after the start date approved by USCIS.
- Requires DSO recommendation, USCIS application and fee.
- Cannot work until approved by USCIS ([can take three months or more](#))
- Approved for 12 months of part-time or full-time employment.
- Students are eligible to apply for a [24-month STEM OPT extension](#) up to 90 days prior to their post-OPT I-20 end date.