



Curricular Practical Training (CPT) Frequently Asked Questions

How much CPT can I be authorized for?

Most students will be eligible for 1 or 2 semesters of CPT. CPT must be authorized for each semester. *Be aware that if you complete 12 or more months of full time CPT, you will be ineligible for OPT.* To continue to be eligible for OPT you will want to make sure to do 364 days or less of full-time CPT. Any participation in CPT that is less than 12 months will not affect your eligibility for OPT.

How many hours per week can I work?

If you are approved for **Part-Time CPT** you may work 20 hours or less per week while you are enrolled for classes. You must be enrolled as a full time student and also be enrolled in the appropriate internship course (CPT placement/Co-Op/internship) to maintain your legal status.

Full-Time CPT permits employment of 21 hours or more per week. This option is only available:

- during the summer vacation if you will be enrolled full-time for the next fall semester.
- during school vacations if no classes are being held for that entire week (i.e. Spring Break, winter break, but NOT Thanksgiving break).
- for graduate students whose thesis or project requires a full-time internship and are enrolled in thesis credits.

Can I change employers while on authorized CPT?

No. CPT is employer specific and you will need to submit another application to the ISO for approval.

What if my CPT ends early or I decide to cancel my CPT?

You should contact an ISO advisor as soon as you decide to end your CPT early or decide not to participate in CPT.

Can I extend my CPT authorization?

No, you must reapply for CPT each semester. If you would like to continue CPT, plan ahead and submit another CPT application to the ISO for approval two weeks before the end date of the current CPT. You are only authorized to work at the employer/co-op/internship listed on your I-20 and during the dates specified. Any work that takes place before or after the dates listed on your I-20 for CPT is considered unauthorized employment. Please note, unauthorized employment is a serious F-1 violation.

What are my responsibilities while on CPT?

While on CPT you still have certain responsibilities towards maintaining lawful F-1 status, such as:

- Always report any change of address using GWeb within 10 days of moving.
- Only work at the company indicated on your I-20.
- Only work during the authorized time period as indicated on your I-20.
- Do not exceed the number of working hours permitted while on CPT.
- Maintain a full-course of study each semester.
- If enrolled in co-op, meet the co-op requirements. (contact GW Career Center for details)

If you have any questions or concerns regarding CPT and how to maintain your legal status, please contact the International Services Office or your International Student Advisor for more information.