F-1 Curricular Practical Training (CPT) Questions and Answers

When can I can I apply for this benefit?
At least one week prior to the start date of employment

What documents do I need to present to apply for this benefit?
a) A written job offer indicating job title dates of employment, number of hours, and physical location of employment.
b) The form “Curricular Practical Training Approval Request Form” completed and signed by your academic and/or internship advisor

When can I begin work?
You may begin work only after you have obtained written permission from an International Student Advisor. CPT authorization cannot be back dated, and working prior to obtaining approval is a violation of status. If you work illegally, you must leave the United States, re-enter as an F-1 student, and wait nine months before becoming eligible for employment benefits, such as Curricular Practical Training or Optional Practical Training.

How long can I work in curricular practical training?
It depends. There is no upper limit on part-time Curricular Practical Training, but any student who works full-time CPT for 12 months or longer loses his/her Optional Practical Training benefits entirely.

Do I have to work for the same employer during the entire period of my CPT?
Changing employers while on Curricular Practical Training requires submission of a new application to an International Student Advisor.

Please contact your international student advisor for further questions.

International Programs Center
127 McIver Street
P.O. Box 26170
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Greensboro, NC 27402-6170
Phone:336-334-5404
FAX: 336-334-5406

Reviewed 11/20/06