Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

A GUIDE TO WORKING OFF CAMPUS FOR CONTINUING F-1 STUDENTS
What is CPT?

Alternate work/study, internship, cooperation education, or a required internship or practicum offered by sponsoring employers through cooperative agreements with the school.
What kind of work can I do with CPT?

**Possible**

- Work that relates to your major
- Paid or unpaid off-campus work anywhere in the U.S.
- Internship or other required work experience for your major
- Work for multiple employers as long as separate CPT authorization is obtained for each employer

**Not possible**

- Work that does not relate to your major
- Long-term, ongoing employment instead of a short-term work experience
- Work for UR after graduation
What is required for CPT?

- Valid F-1 status and good UR standing at time of application
- Job offer that relates to your major
- Continuing student enrolled full-time at UR for current term if CPT is done during semester or enrolled for fall if CPT is done during summer
- F-1 status for at least 1 academic year (9 months) by employment start date EXCEPT graduate students whose programs require a work experience in the 1st semester
- F-1 students who spent time at another institution in another non-immigrant status that allows full-time study (e.g. J-1, H-4, etc.) can count this time toward the 1 academic year requirement if there was no break in between programs
- Must receive UR academic credit during employment period unless work experience is a program requirement
- 20 hour per week maximum including other jobs when school is in session; Full-time during school breaks
Applying during COVID-19

F-1 students who are studying remotely outside the U.S. are eligible for CPT as long as the following conditions are met:

- CPT is integral to the program of study in which the student is enrolled
- CPT is authorized in advance of the employment start date
- The CPT employer has an office outside the U.S. or can assess student engagement and attainment of learning objectives electronically
When can I use CPT?

- Must be used BEFORE graduation

- Can be authorized for part-time (20 hours or less per week) or full-time (over 20 hours per week)

- Part-time CPT does not count toward 12-month limit that takes away from OPT

- Separate CPT applications must be made for the fall, spring and summer terms if work extends beyond one semester
When does my CPT start and end?

**CPT starts**
- On employment start date of I-20 authorizing CPT

**CPT ends**
- On employment end date of I-20 authorizing CPT
- Upon transferring to another institution
- Upon cancelling CPT prior to employment start date
No maximum; 12 months or more of full-time CPT takes away from OPT

Eligible for CPT at each higher educational level

Cannot combine CPT periods
How do I apply for CPT?

• Applications MUST be made BEFORE beginning employment! Authorization can only be made on or after the date International Education receives your completed application. You are not permitted to work until you are authorized to do so.

• Completed Student Statement, Employer Statement, and Departmental Recommendation (download from https://international.richmond.edu/international-students/stay/employment/index.html)

• If approved, International Education will issue new I-20 authorizing employment
What are the deadlines to apply for CPT?

**During the semester**

- Anytime until December 1\textsuperscript{st} in fall semester or May 1\textsuperscript{st} in spring semester
- Please allow up to 5 working days for approval
- International Education will consider applications after the stated deadlines by prior arrangement

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**During the summer**

- At least 5 business days before employment start date
Questions?

• Email Krittika Onsanit at konsanit@richmond.edu

• Walk-in hours (2-4 pm, Monday-Thursday each week, 103G International Center)

• Email for appointment at other times