

F-1 Optional Practical Training Application

Review the Optional Practical Training (OPT) information and application procedures and fill out this form to notify the Office of International Education & Development (OIED) that you plan to apply for OPT and to receive your OPT I-20.

The OPT I-20 will need to be submitted in the application to USCIS. If granted by USCIS, the student will be authorized to work in a job which is directly related to his or her field of study and receive an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) stating the dates they are authorized to work.

To be completed by the Student:

Student's Name: _____ Student ID #: V _____
(Last Name/Family Name) (First Name)

Address during OPT: _____
(Street, Apartment #) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

Phone Number: _____ Personal Email: _____

Major/ Field of Study: _____ Level: Undergraduate Graduate

Have you done OPT before? Yes No

Have you done CPT before? Yes No

Expected Term and Date of Graduation from WOU: _____

Start Date for OPT: _____

Note on Deciding a Start Date for OPT:

The Post-Completion OPT start date must be after the I-20 Program End Date (completion of studies) and no later than 60 days from the program end date.

When picking a start date consider the following:

- The date of application: it usually takes about 1.5 to 3 months to get approval from USCIS on the OPT application
- Are you currently looking for employment and do you expect to start employment immediately after graduating or do you need time to look for a job? How difficult will it be to get a job related to your major and will you accumulate unemployment days while searching for a job?
- If you are unsure about getting a job, or have applied late for OPT, you should plan to set your start date closer to the 60 day mark to give you the most possible time to find a job, and for the OPT application to be processed.
- ◆ Remember, once you decide an OPT start date, it is very difficult (almost impossible) to change after the completed application is submitted!



Remember that you cannot start any kind of OPT employment until:

1. You have received the Employment Authorization Document (EAD) card from USCIS
2. The OPT start date has passed.

Regarding OPT, I understand that... (initial next to box):

_____ I must participate in employment that is directly related to my major at WOU.

_____ I must give a copy of my EAD card to OIED.

_____ I may not work until I receive the EAD and the EAD Start Date has passed.

_____ I must not be unemployed for more than a total of 90 work days after the EAD start date.

_____ If I plan to travel, I must get a new travel signature if the current one is older than 6 months.

_____ I must notify the OIED office if I decide to end OPT, transfer to a new program, return home, or change education level.

_____ I must update OIED within 10 days if any of the following applies to me:

- change of name
- change of address
- change of job(s), employer or employer's address
- an interruption of employment lasting longer than 10 days

I understand the rules listed above and that I am responsible for my status as an F-1 student on Optional Practical Training.

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____