F-1 Curricular Practical Training

WHAT IS CPT?
Curricular Practical Training (CPT) is temporary work authorization required for any off-campus work during an F-1 student’s academic program. CPT is required for both paid and unpaid positions. CPT must be authorized before you begin working.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
- Lawful full-time F-1 status for a full academic year
- CPT must be an integral part of your program of study
- Registration in an academic course directly related to your CPT
- You are not authorized to work until your CPT authorization is approved with a new I-20 showing the authorization

APPLICATION PROCESS
1. Secure internship/job and obtain a job offer letter.
2. Submit your CPT request in the OISS Portal at www.oissportal.northwestern.edu
3. Bring new CPT I-20 to the first day of internship, and keep new original for your records.

QUESTIONS?
For more information, please contact your OISS advisor or attend walk-in advising hours Monday - Thursday from 1pm - 4pm at the OISS at 630 Dartmouth Place.