

## CPT vs OPT The Basics

	<b>CPT</b>	<b>OPT</b>
<b>When can I use OPT or CPT?</b>	CPT can only be granted during academic program. CPT cannot be approved after completion of program.	OPT is usually used after completion of studies.
<b>Do I have to have a job to apply for CPT or OPT?</b>	Yes, approval is given for a specific employer during a specific time.	No, a student does not need a job before applying for OPT.
<b>Can I work at any kind of job?</b>	No, the job must be considered an integral part of your academic program.	No, it's the student's responsibility to find employment in his or her field of study.
<b>Who gives the authorization?</b>	ISO – International Student Office	ISO only recommends OPT USCIS gives OPT approval Processing time can take 90 days
<b>How long can I use CPT or OPT?</b>	There is no limit to the amount of CPT you can use. But, if you use full-time CPT more than 12 months (365 days), you will lose OPT eligibility.	12 months of post-completion OPT  + 17 months of OPT extension = 29 months for STEM fields only.