



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA



OPT Information Session



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA

INTERNATIONAL ADVISING



Overview

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Background



Background

- Optional Practical Training (OPT) allows for practical training after graduation
- Provides valuable practical experience for use in student's home countries
- Possibility of 24 additional months of OPT for STEM majors.



Eligibility



Pre-Completion Requirements

- In extremely rare cases, students may need to apply for pre-completion OPT
- Same requirements for Post-Completion apply for Pre-Completion
- Any time used for pre-completion is subtracted from post-completion eligibility



Post-Completion Requirements

- Must be in F-1 status at time of application and throughout OPT
- Must have been enrolled full-time for two or more consecutive academic semesters
- Must apply to USCIS for employment authorization
- Job offer NOT required to apply



Duration



Duration

- For non-STEM majors – 12 months maximum
- For STEM majors – 12 months with eligibility to extend for another 24 months
 - 36 months maximum
- Opportunity for another OPT period after completion of another higher education level



Types of employment



Types of Employment

- Paid Employment
 - Must work 21 hours or more per week
- Unpaid Employment
 - Must work 21 hours or more per week
 - Log your time and tasks
 - NOT permissible for STEM OPT extension
- Other types of employment
 - See instruction packet



When should you apply?



When should you apply?

- Apply 90 days before you plan to start working
 - You CANNOT apply more than 90 days before your graduation date
- Select a start date 1-59 days after graduation
- Graduate students with thesis or dissertation left may apply for post-completion OPT after completion of coursework



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Application Procedures



Document Checklist

- Form G-1145
 - To receive your receipt number by email or text
- Form I-765
 - Completed and signed
 - Answer to #16 – (c)(3)(B)
- Copies of
 - Passport
 - Visa
 - I-94
- Two passport photos
 - Taken within 30 days of application
- Academic Advisor Certification Form
- Check for \$410
 - Payable to “U.S. Department of Homeland Security”
- **Copy** of I-20 with recommendation for OPT
 - Issued after International Advisor review of the application



How to apply

- **Complete** the post-information session survey at <http://tiny.cc/7voony>
- Once all documents are gathered, take them (except your check) to the INPR front desk in 241 ASH
- Documents are reviewed by an International Advisor
- If approved, the International Advisor will issue an I-20 recommending OPT
- If something needs to be corrected or is missing, the International Advisor will contact you



How to apply

- After approval, the INPR office will contact you when your application materials are ready for pickup and mailing to USCIS.
- After you sign your I-20, our office will copy your I-20 for you to include in your application.
 - **DO NOT SEND THE ORIGINAL I-20**
- Instructions will be provided on how to file your application with USCIS.
- You **MUST** file your application no later than 30 days of the I-20 issue date.



Expectations after filing

- Expect 2-3 weeks for a receipt
 - You'll be notified by text and email, as well as a paper notice through the mail
- Expect 90 days for processing and OPT issuance



After OPT is approved

- Email a copy of your OPT EAD Card to unointladvising@unomaha.edu. Include the front and back of the card.
- DO NOT start working until the start date listed on your OPT card.
- You will need to show your OPT card to your employer.



After OPT is approved

- You will receive an email from SEVP to create your SEVP Portal account.
- The SEVP Portal is where you will update:
 - Current U.S. address
 - Current U.S. telephone number
 - Employer information
- SEVP Portal account must be set up within 30 days of receiving an email.



During OPT



During OPT

- When you find employment, update your SEVP Portal account with the employer's information.
 - If you need a new I-20, you will need to contact UNO International Advising after you update your account.
- Any changes of employment must be reported within 10 business days.
- Unemployment during OPT is limited to 90 days.
- Make sure to keep your address current on the SEVP Portal. Also, update your address in MavLINK so that UNO has your local/current address, if needed.



During OPT

- Non-STEM majors
 - After your OPT expires, you will have 60 days to leave the country or transfer to another academic program
- STEM majors
 - For the STEM OPT extension you will need to apply **before** your standard OPT ends. Apply for STEM OPT no earlier than 90 days before your standard OPT ends.



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Special Scenarios



Change of Graduation Plans

- Cancelling OPT
 - You can cancel OPT if you have not mailed your OPT application to USCIS.
 - If you have mailed your OPT application to USCIS, you will need to meet with an International Student Advisor immediately to determine whether you are able to cancel the application.
 - If you have been approved for OPT, you cannot cancel your OPT and reapply after completing your program. IS&P will ask you to work part-time only until you've finished your studies.
 - It is best to delay applying for OPT if you are not sure you will be finishing your program as expected.



Travel

- When OPT is pending
 - Travel is at your own risk
 - If your OPT is approved while you are abroad, you may need all the items below for re-entry.
- When OPT is approved
 - Travel if you have the following:
 - OPT Card
 - Job offer or proof of employment
 - I-20 endorsed for travel
 - Valid visa
 - Passport with at least six months validity



H-1B Cap-Gap Extension

- All F-1 students who are the beneficiary of a timely-filed H-1B petition requesting change of status and an employment start date of October 1 of the following fiscal year automatically have their work authorization extended.
- This extension of duration of status and work authorization automatically terminate if the H-1B petition is rejected, denied or revoked.
- Based on the current wording in the rule, this provision is available only to students who are beneficiaries of an H-1B petition with a start date of October 1 of the following fiscal year, or that do not request a change of status for the beneficiary.



Resources



Websites

- Study in the States
 - <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov>
- UNO INPR
 - <http://world.unomaha.edu/advising>



In-Person

- International Advisors are available to answer questions about applying for OPT
- Walk-in hours
 - Tuesdays and Thursdays – 14:30 to 16:30
 - Wednesdays – 08:30 to 09:30, 15:00 to 17:00
- All other times – by appointment



International Advising

- 6001 Dodge St, ASH 241
 - Omaha, NE 68132
 - Phone: (402) 554-2293
- unointladvising@unomaha.edu
- <http://world.unomaha.edu>

Questions?

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