

CPT

OPT

STEM OPT

Can only be used before graduation

Can be used before and/or after graduation

Can only be used after Post OPT

Part-time during semesters
Full-time during school breaks

Part-time during semesters
Full-time during school breaks
Full-time required after graduation

Full-time required

Needs to count toward degree requirements

Does not need to count toward degree requirements

Does not need to count toward degree requirements

Requires employment offer to apply

Does not require employment offer to apply

Requires employment offer to apply; job must be paid; E-verify employer; Completed & signed Form I-983; D.H.S. STEM Designated Degree

Job must be related to major area of study

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Approved by: School

Recommended by: School
Approved by: U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services

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Cost: School tuition and fees

Cost: Government application fee

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Processing Time: about 10 business days

Processing Time: about 90 days

Processing Time: about 90 days

Maximum: within semester dates (as many times as it counts towards degree)

Maximum: 12 months (per degree level)

Maximum: 24 months (twice per lifetime)

Proof of work authorization: I-20 with CPT approval

Proof of work authorization: EAD card

Proof of work authorization: EAD card



Under F-1 regulations:
Part time = less than 20 hrs/week
Full time = more than 20 hrs/week

*This material is only a general overview and is not intended to substitute as legal advice.

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