



## International Student Support Program

### OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING (OPT)

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1. I understand that my F-1 status is dependent upon employment, and that I may work part time (at least 20 hours per week) or full time.
2. I understand that if I apply during the 60 day grace period after graduation, I must apply for OPT *before* travelling. Students who do not apply for OPT before travelling abroad during the grace period are not eligible to return to the U.S. on their SBCC I-20 and are not eligible for OPT.
3. I understand that once the start date on my Employment Authorization Document (EAD card) is reached, F-1 visa regulations allow for a maximum of 90 days (including weekends and holidays) unemployment time.
4. I understand that I may only be employed within the dates on my EAD card. I cannot begin employment until I have received the EAD card and until the start date listed on the card is reached.
5. I will bring a copy of my EAD card and a copy of my Social Security card to the ISSP Office.
6. I understand that if I change my address, I must notify my Advisor/DSO within 10 days. I also must update my address on-line at [www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis](http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis).
7. I understand that employment for OPT must be related to my major.
8. I understand that I am required to provide my employer's contact information to my Advisor/DSO. If I change employers or if my employment is terminated for any reason, I must notify my Advisor/DSO within 10 days.
9. I understand that if I want to visit another country, I must obtain a signature on my I-20 from an Advisor/DSO at least one week before I travel.
10. I understand that I may enroll in less than 6.0 units while on OPT, but I may not seek another degree or university transfer requirements.
11. I understand that if I transfer to another school before the expiration date on my EAD card, my OPT automatically expires when the transfer release day in SEVIS is reached.
12. I understand that if I choose to end my OPT to transfer or return to my home country before the expiration date on my EAD card, I must submit a copy of a plane ticket showing a departure date or a copy of my acceptance letter.

13. After my EAD card expires, I have 60 days to prepare for departure or gain admission to a new school or program.
14. I understand that travel outside of the U.S. while waiting for my OPT to be approved, is not recommend as I may be denied re-entry by port-of-entry officials. I understand that after my OPT is approved, I may travel outside of the U.S. and re-enter with my EAD card, I-20, visa/passport, and proof of employment.
15. The ISSP Office strongly recommends that I purchase the school-endorsed medical insurance for any period of time that I do not have insurance coverage. To be eligible I must submit an insurance application form and my premium payment to the insurance company no later than 30 days after the expiration of my current coverage. Insurance application forms are available in the ISSP Office.

I have read and understand my responsibilities as a non-immigrant F-1 student participating in post-completion Optional Practical Training. I understand that if I fail to maintain my status or to comply with these regulations, I may lose my F-1 privileges. SBCC Advisors/DSO's are required by law to report all violations to the Department of Homeland Security in SEVIS.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**To update your address follow these steps:**

- Step 1: Notify your International Student Advisor of your new address.
- Step 2: Go to <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis> and locate the Customer Tools on the left side of the page. Follow the link **Online Change of Address**, and follow the instructions for Non-US Citizens. This update will change your address in the USCIS main database.
- Step 3: If your case status is pending you must also notify the National Service Center at (800) 375-5283. This phone call will change the address on your OPT application, to ensure that your EAD card is sent to the correct address.