CURRICULAR PRACTICAL TRAINING
INFORMATION FOR F-1 STUDENTS

WHAT IS CURRICULAR PRACTICAL TRAINING?
CPT is employment authorization that allows F-1 students to work off-campus in a work/study program. This may include an internship, cooperative education or any other type of required internship or practicum offered by sponsoring employers through cooperative agreements with MU.

In order to be approved for CPT, you must meet the following requirements:

- Internship must be related to your field of study
- Internship must be required by your department or adviser
- Must receive academic credit and a grade for the internship
- Must have a paid or unpaid job offer, in writing, before CPT can be approved (CPT is employer-specific)

Who is eligible?
You must be an F-1 student who has been in lawful status for at least one full academic year (includes having a valid I-20 and passport, full-time enrollment, etc.) and has not completed your course of study. If you have questions about whether you qualify for CPT, talk to an international student adviser.

APPLYING FOR CURRICULAR PRACTICAL TRAINING

After receiving a job or internship offer that is related to your field of study and required by your department or adviser:

- Meet with your academic adviser and obtain a completed Academic Adviser Recommendation for CPT
- Enroll in the CPT course for the semester(s) in which you are applying for CPT
- Submit an online document request for CPT to the International Center (drs.missouri.edu)
- Wait up to five business days while your request is processed
- Receive your new I-20 with CPT authorization on the third page

Things to remember

- Full-time CPT for 12 months or more cancels out your eligibility for OPT
- You may be authorized for as much part-time CPT as is necessary for your program
- Even if the internship is unpaid, you must still obtain CPT authorization
- CPT can only be authorized for a specific job, and the job cannot change during CPT
- You cannot begin employment until you receive your new I-20 and the CPT start date has passed
- Contact MU Career Services for information about finding internships (career.missouri.edu)

Choosing a CPT course

Most students enroll in an internship, practicum, independent study or problems course for CPT. It is up to you and your academic adviser to determine the most appropriate course.

Graduate students: If you are working on your thesis or dissertation and the CPT employment will provide data for your research project, you may enroll in research credit hours to count as your CPT course. This will require a letter of explanation from your academic adviser.

MORE INFORMATION:
international.missouri.edu/cpt

CPT is curricular training, which means it must be part of your course of study and you must receive at least one hour of credit for the employment experience. If you have already completed all degree requirements, you are not eligible for CPT.

During the fall and spring semesters, you are eligible for part-time CPT (20 hours per week or fewer). During the summer and official school breaks, you are eligible for full-time CPT (more than 20 hours per week).

International Center
University of Missouri