

On-Campus Employment

- Undergraduate and graduate students may work up to 20 hours/week per Department of Homeland Security (DHS) guidelines. **UTEP limits student employment to 19 hours/week**
- Students may work up to 40 hours/week during vacation periods and summer term
- Student is not required to enroll in classes during the summer in order to work on campus during summer, unless required by the academic department and/or Human Resources

Curricular Practical Training (CPT):

- **Requires a job offer**
- Must be required or recommended for degree program, and position must be within student's field of study
- Available during a student's academic program
- Can be part time (up to 20 hours/week) or full time (21+ hours/week)
- **12 months of full-time CPT makes student ineligible for OPT at that level of study**
- Learn more at <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/oipsa/office-of-international-programs/visas/f-type-visa/cpt.html>

Optional Practical Training (OPT):

- **Does not require a job offer**
- All employment must be within student's field of study
- Generally used after completing an academic program, for up to 12 months
- Apply up to 90 days before graduation or during 60 day grace period
- Requires an application and fee submitted to USCIS. Student cannot work before approval
- Student is limited to 90 days of unemployment for entire OPT period
- Unpaid employment (volunteering) is permitted where it does not violate labor laws
- Student must work at least 20 cumulative hours/week
- Must report employment updates to OIP
- Learn more at <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/oipsa/office-of-international-programs/visas/f-type-visa/opt.html>

OPT STEM Extension (24-month extension for students with a STEM degree):

- **Requires existing employment or a job offer** within the student's field of study
- Student must work at least 20 hours/week at each employer
- Employer must be enrolled in e-Verify
- Aggregate unemployment from initial OPT period and STEM extension cannot exceed 150 days
- Students must submit an annual evaluation that they complete with the employer