

Optional Practical Training

Ph: 512-245-7966, Email: international@txstate.edu
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OPT Statement of Responsibility

Acknowledge the following statements by placing a mark (x) in the box provided.

- VERY IMPORTANT:** While on OPT, you are required to report ALL changes to your passport name, local address, phone number, and status of employment including changes to employer name or address information to the SEVP Portal. The use of this portal is mandatory and routinely reviewed by SEVIS. Once your OPT is approved you will receive an activation link from SEVP and you must activate your SEVP Portal account within 14 days.
- During OPT, F-1 status is dependent upon employment and you cannot exceed an aggregate of more than 90 days of unemployment. OPT employment must be at least 20 hours a week and can be paid employment, volunteer work, self-employment, and un/paid internship. Multiple employment is allowed.
- Employment can begin after receiving the Employment Authorization Document (EAD) card and only on or after the start date on the EAD.
- If you do not complete all coursework by the I-20 end date, you may not work more than 20 hours a week (part-time), until all coursework has been completed. This does not apply to thesis or dissertation only students.
- If you transfer to another school or begin a new program of study, your authorization to engage in OPT employment is automatically terminated upon the transfer date even if there is time remaining on your OPT.
- Travel outside the US is permitted while your OPT application is pending and approved. When pending, you must have a valid passport, valid F-1 visa, I-20 with a travel signature. Once approved you must also bring your EAD card. *There is always a risk when traveling outside the US so to better your chances of being allowed to reenter you should have a letter from your employer indicating that you are returning for employment.
- You are allowed 12 months of OPT per degree level. You may be eligible for another OPT at a higher educational level.
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) degree students are eligible for a 24-month extension: Review the DHS STEM Designated Degree Program List. You may apply for STEM OPT 90 days before your current OPT expires.
- At the completion of your OPT you are granted a 60-day grace period. During this time, you are permitted to legally remain in the US but must complete one of the following: (1) depart the US; (2) be admitted to a new program at Texas State; (3) change visa status; or (4) transfer to a new institution before the grace period expires.
- Please do not contact ISSS with inquiries about the status of your OPT application. USCIS is responsible for adjudicating and processing your application. If using the ISSS address, you will be contacted when your EAD card arrives.
- If using the ISSS mailing address, I agree to allow ISSS to open USCIS mail on my behalf. (Student will receive all original documents and ISSS will make copies of documents for student's folder. ISSS uses USCIS documents to update student's SEVIS record and assist with notifications for *request for evidence* and *rejection*).
- Please write your requested OPT start and end dates. The EAD card is issued for a maximum of 12 months. If you are unsure, schedule an appointment with a DSO to discuss start and end dates. Call 512-245-7966.

Start Date: _____ End Date: _____

I have read the content of this handout and understand the regulations associated with OPT.

Name: _____ Student ID#: _____

Phone: _____ Non-Texas State Email: _____

Local Address: _____
Street Apt number # City State Zip

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____