Internships & Curricular Practical Training

Curricular Practical Training (CPT) is a form of work authorization that can be approved for international students in F-1 status who are pursuing an internship. Unlike post-completion Optional Practical Training (OPT), CPT can be authorized by OISP without submitting an application to the US government.

Am I eligible for CPT?
OISP requires students to complete two trimesters at Franklin University before authorizing CPT and to be in F-1 status at the time of the internship. You do not have to be in F-1 status in the two trimesters prior to the internship, but you must have enrolled full-time and met face-to-face requirements to fulfill the two trimester requirement. You must, also, qualify academically for the internship. Please consult the Academic Bulletin or your Academic Advisor to determine if you meet the academic requirements, such as prerequisites and minimum GPA.

How do I apply for CPT?
Students must obtain an internship and complete the application forms in the University’s Internship Manual prior to starting the job. After obtaining employer and program chair approval for the internship, you must obtain an I-20 from OISP granting CPT work authorization to legally work. Please allow two weeks from the date that you obtain the employer approval and submit the internship application to complete the remaining steps. Do not begin working without the CPT I-20.

What obligations do I have on CPT?
While on CPT, F-1 students must maintain their F-1 status. Some special considerations to keep in mind:
• Internship schedule: Only participate in your internship between the dates listed on the CPT I-20. If you are authorized for part-time CPT, you may work up to 20 hours per week. If you are authorized for full-time CPT, you may work over 20 hours per week.
• Internship employer: Only work for the employer listed on the I-20. If the location of your internship changes, notify OISP within 10 days.
• Internship credit: Franklin can only grant CPT if you are earning internship credit for the work. Discuss any questions you have about degree requirements, tuition, and fees before begin the internship.

How will CPT impact other work authorization?
Students who complete 12 months of full-time CPT are not eligible for OPT at the same degree level. Part-time CPT does not impact OPT eligibility. Regulations governing work authorization are not currently interpreted to prevent students on CPT from other authorized work, such as on-campus employment.