YOUR POST-COMPLETION OPT DATES

Applying for OPT requires planning. First, you must prepare for your graduation by registering for your final classes, applying for graduation, and completing your degree requirements. In addition, you must plan when you would like your OPT to begin and when you should apply for OPT.

Choosing Your OPT Employment Dates

1. Identify your graduation date. This is usually a Sunday. This is the first day your OPT can begin.

2. Recommended: Identify the next available weekday.

3. Add 60 days to your graduation date. This is the last day your OPT can begin.

4. Choose any day between (or including) the two for your OPT to begin. Unemployment days will begin accruing that day or the day your OPT is approved, whichever is later. Expect a 90 day USCIS processing time.

5. Add 365 days to your OPT start date. This is last day of your OPT and the start of your new grace period.

6. Add 60 days to your OPT end date. This is the last day of your new grace period.

Choosing Your OPT Application Date

1. Identify your graduation date.

2. Subtract 90 days from your graduation date. This is the first day USCIS can receive your application.

3. Add 60 days to your graduation date. This is the last day USCIS can receive your application.

4. Choose a day between the two in which you can have your application ready, including the application fee. Expect 90 days for USCIS processing.

5. Subtract 2 weeks to request your new I-20 from OISP.

Helpful Resources

Graduation Dates: http://www.franklin.edu/student-services/graduation-information
Calculate OPT Dates: http://www.timeanddate.com/date/dateadd.html
USCIS Processing Times: https://egov.uscis.gov/cris/processTimesDisplayInit.do