Optional Practical Training
for F-1 Visa Students

February 2014
Optional Practical Training (OPT)

- Requires good academic standing (GPA)
- Valid F-1 visa status
- Completion of 1 academic year full-time enrollment
- Completion of the Graduation Writing Requirement (GWR)
Curricular Practical Training vs. OPT

**CPT**
- Approved by Int’l Center
- No filing fee
- Before graduation
- Need job before applying
- Enroll in internship class (required)

**OPT**
- Approved by DHS
- Filing fee ($380)
- Before or after graduation
- No job required to apply
- No enrollment
When to Apply for OPT

- Pick an OPT start date within 60 days of the last day of finals your last quarter
- Apply 90 days before the end of your last quarter
- Application must be received no later than the end of 60-day grace period
- Application packet on IC web page: international.calpoly.edu
Applying for OPT

- Make an appointment with Judy
- Bring application materials & immigration documents
- New I-20 issued to mail with application
- 30 days to mail application to USCIS
OPT Processing

- Processing takes up to 3 months
- Receipt Notice & E-mail Notification
- Request for Evidence (RFE)
- Notify Judy & Susan if you move
I-765

For applying for OPT and economic hardship EAD.

Not for CPT!
Send I-20 copy to USCIS Service Center with I-765, fee, photos, and supporting documents.

Wait for EAD card before working.
OPT Receipt Notice

When your application is received, you will get this notice in the mail.

Note the Receipt Number.

This is required to track the status of your case online and to follow up with additional information if needed.
Employment Authorization Card (EAD)

Proof of authorization for OPT
OPT Employment

- No more than 90 days total unemployment
- Job must be related to primary major on I-20
- Part time & multiple employers allowed
- Non-paid volunteer work allowed
OPT Reporting Requirements

- You must continue to keep the International Center updated on:
  - Your U.S. address and contact info
  - Your employer (name, address, contact info)
  - Start and end dates of employment
  - Any change of employment
Travel when OPT is Pending

- If you travel out of U.S. while OPT application is pending, re-entry to the USA requires:
  - Passport with valid F-1 visa stamp
  - OPT I-20 with valid travel signature
  - Receipt Notice
Travel out of U.S. on OPT

If you travel out of U.S. after OPT is approved, re-entry to the USA requires:

- Passport with valid F-1 visa stamp
- OPT I-20 with valid travel signature
- EAD card
- Employer letter
17-month STEM extension of OPT

- Available to most Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math majors
- Job must utilize your degree
- Employer must be enrolled in E-Verify
- Apply before current OPT EAD expires
- Report to Int’l Center every 6 months
Cal Poly VITA – free tax assistance

- Saturdays, Feb 1 – Mar 15, 2014
- 10:30am – 2:00pm
- Building 3, 2nd Floor
- Bring W-2 Forms and SSN
- Call (805)756-2667 for more information
H-1B Work Visa Seminar

Presented by:

Adam Green
Immigration Attorney

April 17, 2014
Building 38, Room 114
Contacts and Online Help

- **Web page**: [international.calpoly.edu](http://international.calpoly.edu)
  - Click International Students > Work Authorization

- **Judy Mitchell**
  - **International Student Advisor**
  - Approves and recommends all work authorization
  - [jumitche@calpoly.edu](mailto:jumitche@calpoly.edu) 756-5837  Room 38-107

- **Susan Tripp**
  - **SEVIS Specialist**
  - Reviews your application materials
  - Reports address changes to SEVIS and DHS
  - [sltripp@calpoly.edu](mailto:sltripp@calpoly.edu) 756-7535  Room 38-212