

## OPT options September 2008

Option	Requirements	Pros	Cons	Costs	Timing
Pre-completion OPT during summer vacation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Job offer recommended before applying</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides part-time or full-time off-campus employment in summer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses part of 12-month OPT allotment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$340 application fee (required with every OPT application)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply 90 days before job starts</li> </ul>
Pre-completion OPT while school is in session (prior to completing all course work)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Job offer recommended before applying</li> <li>• Academic department approval required</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides part-time off-campus employment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could use on campus employment instead</li> <li>• Limited to working 20 hours per week</li> <li>• Uses part of 12-month OPT allotment</li> <li>• Must be enrolled</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$340 application fee (required with every OPT application)</li> <li>• Tuition &amp; fees = \$8500 per semester</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply 120 days before job starts</li> </ul>
Pre-completion OPT after completion of all course work <b>except</b> thesis or dissertation and ETD submission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Job offer recommended before applying.</li> <li>• Academic department approval required</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides full-time off-campus employment.</li> <li>• Period(s) of unemployment not counted</li> <li>• May request extension of academic program if needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No cap gap extension</li> <li>• No 17 month STEM extension</li> <li>• Uses part or all of 12-month OPT allotment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$340 application fee (required with every OPT application)</li> <li>• If enrolled for 3 credit hours in order to defend, tuition and fees = \$2700 per semester</li> <li>• If enrolled for 1-credit defending status, fee = \$621</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply 120 days before job starts</li> </ul>
Post-completion OPT after program end date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No job offer required to apply</li> <li>• Academic recommendation required</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides full-time off-campus employment</li> <li>• Cap gap extension option</li> <li>• 17 month STEM extension possible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Periods of unemployment are counted - maximum 90 days allowed during 12 month period.</li> <li>• No program extensions available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$340 application fee (required with every OPT application)</li> </ul> <p>If defending while on OPT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defending Student Status, tuition and fees = \$621</li> <li>• 3 credit hours, tuition and fees = \$2700</li> <li>• Full time hours, tuition and fees = \$12,000</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply no more than 90 days before program end date</li> <li>• Must apply before end of 60 day grace period</li> <li>• OPT must start within 60 days of program completion date regardless of when application is filed</li> </ul>