

Message from the ISO: INFORMATION FOR GRADUATING F-1 STUDENTS

1. Students completing their program this Spring 2008 semester or Summer 2008 session who want to apply for the Optional Practical Training (OPT) benefit must apply 100 days prior to their employment start date to get the full 12 months of OPT. You may also apply within the 60th day after completion date, however, the 12-month OPT is not guaranteed in this case. You may end up with 10 months of OPT. Plan accordingly.

Deadline to submit OPT application to the ISO is 3 weeks prior to the 60th day after completion date. Failure to meet the deadlines will result in, without exception, the loss of your OPT benefit.

2. Students who do not complete their program as previously reported on the Completion of Coursework Form, OPT/CPT application, or any other document must report to the ISO prior to the completion date for appropriate advisement. Failure to do so will cause loss of F-1 status and consequently, loss of the OPT benefit.
3. Upon completion of studies, F-1 students must be in one of the following situations:
 - Engaged in OPT, has a pending OPT application or plan to apply for OPT in a timely manner.
 - Admitted to a new program at ASU or other institution. If you intend to enter another degree program here at ASU, you must come to the ISO to request for a new I-20 reflecting the new program. If you will transfer to another US institution, you must contact the ISO for SEVIS transfer process information.
 - Applied for change to another immigration status. If you have received a Notice of Action from USCIS regarding a change of your immigration status, please contact the ISO immediately to get your record updated in SEVIS.

IMPORTANT! If NOT in any of the above situations, students must depart the USA within 60 days.

4. Further Important Notes:
 - After completion of studies, you are not allowed to continue to work on campus as a student. Any employment as a student after degree completion is considered unauthorized and will jeopardize your immigration status.
 - Graduating students are advised to keep their immigration documents indefinitely. After you leave the University, the ISO keeps your file for a limited period only and will not be able to assist with requests for documents or verification of student status after files have been destroyed.

The International Student Office
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