Curricular Practical Training Information Statement for Students Sponsored on F-1 Visas

In order to comply with United States Code of Federal Regulations pertaining to F-1 student visas, the UTHealth School of Public Health has outlined this information sheet. Curricular Practical Training (CPT) is defined in the United States Code of Federal Regulations as “alternate work/study, internship, cooperative education, or any other type of required internship or practicum which is offered by sponsoring employers through cooperative agreements with the school.” Students enrolled at UTHealth may be eligible to participate in CPT provided that the training/employment is “an integral part of an established curriculum [8 C.F.R. § 214.2 (f)(10)(i)].”

International students sponsored on an F-1 must follow US immigration laws to remain in compliance with immigration status.

Per US Code of Federal Regulations and the Office of International Affairs, CPT eligibility is as follows:

- Student must have been lawfully enrolled on a full-time basis for one full academic year before being eligible for CPT.
  - Exception exists for graduate students whose programs require immediate curricular practical training.
- Student must be pursuing his/her academic objective and be maintaining valid F-1 status during the time of approved CPT.
- Training/employment must be either required of all students or required for a particular course or curriculum track in order to fulfill requirements for the degree.
- Student must receive course credit for training/employment.
  - Training must be listed in the school's course catalogue showing the assigned number of credits and faculty member teaching the course. Students enrolled in such a course must perform training within the established course objectives under the supervision of the instructor.

Note: A course offered for the primary purpose of facilitating employment authorization does not qualify for CPT.

A CPT opportunity must be an integral part of the student’s established degree requirements. It must be directly linked to a student’s academic curriculum requirements, as well as academic progress. If the CPT does not qualify, a student will not be eligible to complete a CPT opportunity.

- MPH and DrPH students are required to complete only three credit hours of practicum per degree requirements, therefore only three hours will be applied to a CPT.
- MS and PhD students are not required to complete a practicum or internship, therefore a practicum does not qualify for a CPT, unless it is required on the degree planner.
- Independent study courses are not required as part of UTHealth SPH curriculum, therefore an independent study does not qualify for a CPT.

If a CPT opportunity is directly linked to the content and progression of a student’s thesis or dissertation research and paper, the student’s advisor or dissertation supervisor must submit a thorough explanation of the experience and how it relates to the thesis or dissertation. The student will need to enroll in thesis or dissertation hours if the CPT is approved.
A CPT opportunity that is not eligible will be declined. Failure to comply with CPT authorization could result in a loss of a student's immigration benefits.

For any questions related to CPT, please contact the Office of Academic Affairs and Student Services. Students may also speak with their international advisor.

Related Forms and Information: Office of International Affairs CPT Form for F-1 Students

Responsible Office/Contact Information: Office of Academic Affairs and Student Services
Office Phone: 713-500-9032
E-mail: SPHStudentServices@uth.tmc.edu

Office of International Affairs
(713) 500-3176
E-mail: utoiahouston@uth.tmc.edu