

Bridgewater State University  
International Student and Scholar Services  
Curricular Practical Training VS. Optional Practical Training

CPT requires a job offer	VS	OPT does not require a job offer.
CPT requires enrollment in a special class in which on-the-job training is required and for which course credit is received	VS	OPT does not require you to enroll in any class.
CPT is authorized for a specific employer IRU ZRUN UHODWHG W studies.	VS	OPT allows work with ANY employer EDVHG RQ VWXGHQ\
Employment authorization based on CPT is granted on the 20.	VS	Employment authorization based on OPT is called the EAD (Employer Authorization Document).
CPT requires 63.24 credit hours (entire program) and 6 course units required for degree.	VS	OPT allows for employment both prior to and after graduation.
CPT does not affect OPT as long as CPT issued does not exceed 12 full-time months. Part-time (20 hours or less) CPT is never accumulated or deducted from OPT.	VS	Part-time (pre-completion) OPT (20 hours or less) is deducted at part-time rate, but full-time OPT (over 20 hours per week) is deducted at full-time rate from the 12 months of OPT. (NOTE: if you received 6 full-time months of OPT prior to graduating, you will have 6 months left upon graduation.)
x		Both CPT and OPT require that the proposed employment be related to the student's field of study.
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