Optional Practical Training

OPT

Current as of 07/31/2014
ISSO Advisors

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Advance appointment (30 minutes)
Same day appointment (15 minutes)
Today’s Agenda

• Understanding OPT
• Planning for OPT
• Preparing OPT Application
• Processing OPT Application
• During OPT
Understanding OPT
What is Optional Practical Training?

• Benefit of F-1 status

• Practical experience in your academic field
  – Directly related to level & major of current degree program

• Valid for 12 months

• Paid or Unpaid
  – Unpaid positions may violate labor laws
Who is eligible for OPT?

- Maintaining legal F-1 status
- Enrolled full time for at least 1 academic year
- Additional 12 months available for each degree completed at a higher educational level
What employment qualifies as OPT?

- **Type of Employment**
  - Multiple employers
  - Short term multiple employers (performing artists)
  - Work for hire (contractual relationship)
  - Employment through an agency or consulting firm
  - Self employed business owner

When can I use OPT?

• Pre-Completion: Part or Full Time
  
  – Prior to completion of degree requirements

  • Job opportunity does not qualify as CPT
    
    – Part-time during fall or spring semester
    
    – Part-time or full-time during summer
When can I use OPT?

• Post-Completion: Full Time
  – After completion of degree requirements
  – After completion of coursework requirements, but excluding thesis or dissertation

• Side note: Cannot return to ISU as a student after OPT to complete your thesis or dissertation without applying for a reinstatement through USCIS

• Side note: Cannot apply for an H-1B without confirmation that all degree requirements have been met; this requires submission of the form “Thesis/Dissertation Submission Request” to the Graduate College
When can I use OPT?

• Cap-Gap: Full Time

  *Only available to some students*

  - Must be in a valid period of OPT or the 60-day grace period following the end date on the EAD

• Bridge gap between end of current, post-completion OPT and October 1 begin date for H-1B status

• Bridge gap between end of grace period following post-completion OPT and October 1 begin date for H-1B status
When can I use OPT?

- **17-Month Extension:** Full Time
  
  *Only available to some students*

  - Currently in an approved period of OPT
  
  - Major is on the Department of Homeland Security’s STEM Designated Degree Program list
  
  - Employer is enrolled in the E-Verify program
  
  - Never used the 17-month extension

For more information, please consult the ISSO webpage on this topic:

Home  ▶ Resources ▶ F-1 Immigration Information ▶ Optional Practical Training 17-month Extension
Planning for OPT
Choosing Your Start Date

Note:
Material in remaining presentation is specific to post-completion OPT
How do I determine my completion date?

Based on Completion of Degree Requirements

Not graduation date

• Academic terminology

• Students cannot delay graduation to extend program completion date

Not I-20 completion date

• Estimate of time to complete a degree

• Some students complete degree requirements prior to completion date listed on I-20
How do I determine my completion date?

**Degree programs with coursework only**

- Students completing bachelor’s degrees
- Students completing master’s degrees without a creative component or thesis
  - Examples: MBA, MAcc, and MEng

**Program completion date:**
Last day of semester in which last required courses are taken

**Begin date of semester**

**End date of semester**
How do I determine my completion date?

**Degree programs with creative component, thesis or dissertation**
Defending during Fall, Spring or Summer Semester

- Students completing master’s degree with a creative component or thesis
- Students completing doctoral degree

**Program completion date:**
Any date after completion of courses (POS) but no later than last day of the semester when final oral defense is taken

- POS courses completed
- Final oral defense
- End date of semester
How do I determine my completion date?

**Degree programs with creative component, thesis or dissertation**

*Defending during interim period between semesters*

- Students completing *master’s* degree with a creative component or thesis
- Students completing *doctoral* degree

**Program Completion Date**

Any date after taking your final oral exam, but no later than the day the next semester begins:

- Final oral defense
- Day before next semester begins (Fall, Spring or Summer I)
What is impacted by my completion date?

On Campus Employment as an F-1 Student

- Your program completion date is the last day you may work on campus
- OPT I-20 may have revised completion date
- Letters of Intent will likely also be shortened
  - Eligibility for resident tuition for students with graduate assistantship may be affected

Program Completion Date

Begin date of semester

Last day of on-campus employment

End date of semester
My OPT Plan Worksheet

**Program Completion Date:**

- **ISSO preferred request date:** 100-120 days prior to completion date
- **Earliest deadline** that application can reach USCIS: 90 days prior to completion date
- **Absolute deadline** for USCIS to receive application: 60 days after completion date
- **Preferred start date** of employment: within 60 days of completion date
- **14 month window** which defines latest possible date my OPT must end, even if less than 12 months
- **12 months from preferred start date** of employment
- **60 day grace period** (from end date on EAD)

By law, USCIS has 90 days from the date they receive your application to make a decision!
When do I submit my request?

Program Completion Date

ISSO preferred request date:
100-120 days prior to completion date

Earliest deadline that application can reach USCIS:
90 days prior to completion date

Absolute deadline for USCIS to receive application:
60 days after completion date

By law, USCIS has 90 days from the date they receive your application to make a decision!
When do I submit my request?

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100-120 days prior to completion date

**Earliest deadline**
that application can reach USCIS:
90 days prior to completion date

**Absolute deadline**
for USCIS to receive application:
60 days after completion date

By law, USCIS has 90 days from the date they receive your application to make a decision!
When do I submit my request?

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</tr>
</tbody>
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**ISSO preferred request date:**
100-120 days prior to completion date

- **Earliest deadline** |
  - Application can reach USCIS:
    - 90 days prior to completion date

- **Absolute deadline** for USCIS to receive application:
  - 60 days after completion date

- **Earliest deadline** for USSCIS to receive application:
  - 90 days prior to completion date

- **By law, USCIS has 90 days from the date they receive your application to make a decision!**

**Timeline:**

- **April 9, 2015**
- **May 9, 2015**
- **Last day of 2014 Summer II Session**
- **August 7, 2015**
- **October 6, 2015**
When do I submit my request?

**ISSO preferred request date:**
100-120 days prior to completion date

- **Earliest deadline** that application can reach USCIS: 90 days prior to completion date
- **Absolute deadline** for USCIS to receive application: 60 days after completion date

**Final Oral Defense**
Between Summer and Fall Semesters

By law, USCIS has 90 days from the date they receive your application to make a decision!
When do I submit my request?

ISSO preferred request date: 100-120 days prior to completion date

Program Completion Date

Earliest deadline that application can reach USCIS: 90 days prior to completion date

Absolute deadline for USCIS to receive application: 60 days after completion date

By law, USCIS has 90 days from the date they receive your application to make a decision!
When do I submit my request?

ISSO preferred request date: 100-120 days prior to completion date

**Earliest deadline**
that application can reach USCIS:
90 days prior to completion date

**Absolute deadline**
for USCIS to receive application:
60 days after completion date

By law, USCIS has 90 days from the date they receive your application to make a decision!
Why not submit my request after I complete?

Program Completion Date

**Primary**: You may lose time on OPT!

*Secondary*: May not be able to renew a U.S. driver’s license

Absolute deadline for USCIS to receive application:
60 days after completion date

12 months of OPT employment must end no later than 14 months from program completion date

If USCIS takes full processing time allowed by law

OPT start date adjusted to date
USCIS approves OPT

60 days 90 days

May 8, 2015

July 7, 2015

October 5, 2015

<12 months

July 6, 2016

Shortens OPT Period!
How do I choose my start date?

Program Completion Date: December 18, 2015

**Start Date:**
Choose any date within 60 days after completion date

14-Month Window:
12 months of OPT can fall anytime within 14 months from your program completion date

Cannot request a start date after this date!
How do I choose my start date?

Program Completion Date

Start Date:
- Earlier
- Later

60 days

Lose job opportunity
Can the employer wait if your EAD start date is 1-3 months after the date they want you to begin?

Accumulate unemployment if not “working”
Cannot maintain valid F-1 status if accumulate 90 days of unemployment during 12 months of OPT, so what if choose an earlier date and can’t find a job?
What if my EAD is issued after my start date?

**Preferred start date**
Any date within 60 days after completion date

**Actual start date**
* Preferred date if USCIS decision before this date
* USCIS decision date if decision after preferred date

Example 1
Application @ USCIS: February 15, 2015
Requested start date: June 1, 2015
USCIS decision date: May 16, 2015
Actual start date: June 1, 2015

Example 2
Application @ USCIS: July 1, 2015
Requested start date: July 8, 2015
USCIS decision date: September 29, 2015
Actual start date: September 29, 2015
What about the 90 day unemployment rule?

• **Allowed up to 90 days of unemployment**
  – Count only days between dates listed on Employment Authorization Document (EAD)
  – Count all days, including weekends and holidays
  – Count any week employed less than 20 hours
  – Cumulative over 12 months of OPT
  – Count days outside the U.S.

• **Considered a violation of status to go over 90 days of unemployment**
  – Burden on student to report employment to ISSO
  – Only DHS determines if violation occurs
How do I verify employment?

• Retain job offer letter for each position you hold
  • Should list begin date (mm/dd/yyyy)
  • Includes some type of document for nonpaid positions

• Work with employer to determine how you will document the number of hours you work each week
  • Consider difficulty for unpaid work or self-employment

• Retain pay stubs for paid positions

• Retain all termination notices for each position you hold
  • Should list end date of employment (mm/dd/yyyy)

• Retain tax records for each calendar year of work
Preparing OPT Application

Request to ISSO via Cystart
How is an OPT request processed?

Meet with ISSO administrative staff to prepare final application

Mailing application to USCIS contractor in Arizona

Mailing from USCIS contractor to Nebraska Service Center

Processing by USCIS Nebraska Service Center (up to 90-day processing)

EAD card production by USCIS contractor in Kentucky (up to 30-day processing)

Mailing of EAD from USCIS contractor to ISSO

You pick up EAD in ISSO or mailing of EAD from ISSO to you
Resources for OPT Requests

www.isso.iastate.edu
Resources for OPT Requests

F-1 Student Immigration Information

- Change to Academic Program - Resources
- Copies of Missing Immigration Documents - Resources
- Dependent I-20 (F-2 Spouse or Child) - Resources
- Mailing Authorization - Resources
- Off-Campus Work Permission - Resources

Optional Practical Training - Resources

- Frequently Asked Questions
- OPT PowerPoint Presentation
- OPT Workshop Registration

Optional Practical Training 1-765 Form

Optional Practical Training 1-765 (sample only)

Optional Practical Training G-1145 Form

- Optional Practical Training 17-Month Extension - Resources
- Permanent Departure from ISU - Resources
- Change of Level - Resources
- Change of Status - Resources
- Curricular Practical Training - Resources
Resources for OPT Requests

Welcome!

Welcome to the International Students and Scholars website. Here, you will find resources and important dates and information to assist you during your time at Iowa State University. If you have questions unanswered by this website or cannot find what you’re looking for, please visit our office in 3248 Memorial Union or submit a request via isso@iastate.edu. Due to an increase of students on campus email traffic has increased, and email responses may take up to 3 working days.

- Students needing an appointment with an advisor must call our main office at 515.294.1120
- F-1 students can sign-up for a OPT or OPT workshop online

Immigration Presentation
H-1B and U.S. Permanent Resident Petitions: What You Need To Know
Tuesday, March 3, 2015

Office Hours
Monday - Friday 8am to 5pm

Links
CyStart
Returning Student Check-In
Request A Letter
New Student Checklist
Airport Transportation
Library Guide
Taxes
ISSO Blog
Upcoming Trips & Events
Blackboard
AccessPlus
Directory
Maps
Contact Us
Submitting OPT Request to ISSO

Welcome to the Cystart Services Login Page

Technology is key to our proactive approach. Our information services and experienced staff enable efficient management of student and scholar data, and our portal provides individualized, web-based services. The following are the types of online services available for international students, scholars, & staff.

Full Client Services for Students & Scholars
- Secure services requiring login with your institutional Network ID and password. These services include:
  1. View and update information on file
  2. Submit electronic form (e-form) requests for travel signatures, reduced course load authorization, program extensions, etc.
  3. Access alerts and notes on file that require action in order to maintain legal status

Limited Services for Students & Scholars
- Limited services requiring login with your University ID number and date of birth. These services include:
  1. Limited student services like registration for orientation or SEVIS transfer-in.
  2. Limited initial intake forms for J-1 scholars or H-1B employees.

The following are additional services:

International Student & Scholar Statistical Reports
Anonymous Feedback (surveys, evaluations, etc)
Administrative Services for University Departments

online services for international students, scholars & staff
Submitting OPT Request to ISSO

Same log-in used for your ISU e-mail
Submitting OPT Request to ISSO

Cystart Services Home Page

Online Services for International Students, Scholars, and Staff: Update your institutional information, request signatures, work authorization, certificate of enrollments, sign-up for sessions, and more.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cystart Home Page</th>
<th>Options</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biographical Information</td>
<td>□ View cases closed before today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F-1 Graduate Student Services</td>
<td>□ View correspondence and notes older than 60 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F-1 IEOP Student Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>F-1 Undergraduate Student Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Services</td>
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<td>Logout of Cystart</td>
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SEVIS Status Information
No SEVIS Information on File.

If you are an F-1 or J-1 sponsored by a different organization then you’ll need to contact your sponsor for details about your SEVIS status.

The area most frequently used by international students, scholars, and their families is ISSO located in 3248 Memorial Union. The International Student Advisers working in ISSO assist international students and scholars with maintenance of their immigration status, U.S. employment regulations, and provide support with social, cultural, financial, and personal concerns.

Link for students completing a Master’s or Doctoral Degree at ISU

Link for students completing a Bachelor’s Degree at ISU
Submitting OPT Request to ISSO

Choose this link for the 12 Month OPT request
When will ISSO review my request?

- E-forms to advisors routed for completion
- 10 calendar days from when all e-forms are completed and submitted to iStart
- Pending review indicates it is waiting for an ISSO advisor or ISSO staff member to review; allow 10 days
How will I know my I-20 is ready?

You will receive the following e-mail from ISSO

From: Stapes, Elizabeth M [ISS]
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2014 8:46 AM
To: 
Subject: 

Your OPT I-20 is ready for pickup in Room 3248 Memorial Union. You may drop off your completed application **Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 11:30 am.** You will have about a 10 – 15 minute wait while a staff member looks over your application to make sure it is complete.

**YOU MUST PICK UP YOUR I-20 AND COMPLETE THE PACKET WITHIN 2 WEEKS OF THIS E-MAIL. OTHERWISE YOUR I-20 WILL EXPIRE.**

What documents must I bring to ISSO to meet with an advisor to complete my final OPT application?

**FYI:** *These documents are discussed in detail on the OPT PowerPoint Presentation posted on the ISSO web site.*

- $380 personal check, made payable to U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- Two identical, passport style photographs taken within the past 30 days
- Printed copy of the completed **Form I-765**
- Printed copy of the completed **Form G-1145**
- Original and one copy of each of the following immigration documents:
  - I-94 card, front and back (if you did not receive an I-94 card please go to the following link and print it off - [https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/request.html](https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/request.html))
  - Passport identity page
  - Passport page showing expiration date of passport
  - Passport page with most recent F-1 visa
  - I-20 forms with prior OPT endorsements on page 3, if any
  - Previous EAD from USCIS, if any
New I-20 with OPT Recommendation

- OPT recommendation
  - On page 3 of new I-20
  - Requested part or full-time
  - Requested begin and end date
New I-20 with OPT Recommendation

• Possible Updates to Page 1
  – Completion date shortened
    • Caution! If you don’t complete your degree as planned and you are now no longer eligible for OPT, must request a program extension prior to this new completion date.
  – Addition of remark (#9)
    • Completing second major/degree on same date
  – Level and major (#5)
    • Graduate students must review to ensure correct as ISSO is not notified if changed from PhD to Masters
Preparing OPT Application

Documents for Final Application
How to I make out my check?

- Personal Check

Name
Current Address

September 15, 2014

U.S. Department of Homeland Security $380.00 ------

Three hundred and eighty dollars only ---------------------

John Doe

Form I-765 for SEVIS #N000xxxxxxxx
What should the photos look like?

- 2 color photos
- Taken within past 30 days
- U.S.-quality-passport photos
- Complete specifications:

  http://travel.state.gov/visa/visaphotoreq/visaphotoreq_5334.html
How do I complete the I-765?

- Reference I-765 sample posted on ISSO web site
  - Demonstrates a correctly completed I-765

- Use I-765 template on ISSO web site to prepare your I-765
  - See next slide for specific reminders
  - Type your responses on the .pdf form

- Save the .pdf file to upload to your e-form request
  - Do not print or sign the I-765 at this time
How do I complete the I-765?

• Special reminders:
  – Do not change the information in #2, #3, #15, #16
  – The form will add dashes for SSN & telephone number
  – Use tab to move information under heading above it
  – Capitalize your last (family) name, but use capital and small letters for your first (given) name
  – Use your I-94 card number for #10 (11 digits)
  – List airport where your immigration documents were reviewed and I-94 card was processed in #13
  – Do change information that is different for you
How do I complete the I-765?

• **Signature section:**
  
  – You must sign between the lines.
  
  • If your signature touches or exceeds one of the lines, you may have difficulty obtaining a new driver’s license.
How do I complete the G-1145?
How should I copy my I-94 card?

- Black and white
- Front and back
- Entry stamp should be visible
What if I have an electronic version of my I-94?

- Retrieve from www.cbp.gov/I94
What should I copy from my passport?

- Biographic information
  - Photo, date of birth, country of birth

- Passport expiration date
  - Sometimes on a different page

- Visa page
Preparing OPT Application

Submitting to USCIS
Mailing Final Application

• ISSO strongly recommends we mail your application

• How should I mail the final application if I choose to mail it myself?
  – Use the U.S. Postal Service to mail it to
    USCIS
    PO Box 21281
    Phoenix, AZ 85036
How can I check the status of my case?

• E-Mail Notification from USCIS
  
  – This commonly takes to 2-3 weeks
  
  – You can check the status of your case with information in the e-mail
  
  – Sample e-mail message:

    Your case has been accepted and routed to the USCIS Nebraska Service Center for processing. Within 7-10 days by standard mail you will receive your official Receipt Notice (Form I-797) with your Receipt Number LINxxxxxxxxxx. With the official Receipt Notice (Form I-797) you may visit www.uscis.gov where you can check the status of your case using My Case Status. We suggest you wait until you have received your Form I-797 before checking My Case Status.

    This confirmation provides notification of the date USCIS received your case. This notice does NOT grant any immigration status or benefit. You MAY NOT present this notice as evidence that you have been granted any immigration status or benefit. Further, this notice does NOT constitute evidence that your case remains pending with USCIS. The current status of your case must be verified with USCIS.

    PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS MESSAGE
Pending OPT Application

- Paper Notification from USCIS
  - USCIS sends paper I-797 Receipt Notice to ISSO
    - Based on mailing address on the I-765
    - May take 2 – 4 weeks
  - 90 day processing starts from I-797 received date
How can I check the status of my case?

- Use [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov) (click “Check your Case Status”)
  - Often only change will be from Initial Review to Card/Document Production
  - Might stay on Initial Review for 2-3 months
  - Request for Evidence is not common
How will I know if ISSO received my EAD?

• **ISSO will send an e-mail to your ISU e-mail address**

• Please remember it can take up to 30 days for ISSO to receive your EAD from the date the USCIS Case Status system indicates it has been approved.

• If more than 15 days has passed since the USCIS Case Status indicates your EAD has been sent, you may:
  
  • Send an e-mail to **intlserv@iastate.edu**
  
  • Phone 515-294-1120 and ask the ISSO receptionist if your EAD has arrived
How do I get my EAD from ISSO?

• You can pick it up
  – Bring in a photo ID
  – Come during normal business hours

• ISSO can mail it to you
  – Respond to e-mail from ISSO indicating EAD arrived
  – Complete Mailing Authorization E-Form in iStart

• You may select someone else to pick up your EAD
  – Inform ISSO in writing who will act on your behalf
    • Provide full name and ID number (ISU, driver’s license) for the person
  – Instruct person to bring photo ID when comes to ISSO
Employment Authorization Card (EAD)

Signature: Some states will not allow as documentation for driver’s license if signature is missing. The EAD is still fine for employment purposes.

Dates of employment: If decision made after your requested start date, the EAD start date will reflect the decision date.

EADs are issued for various purposes; this shows it is for OPT.

This reminds you that you need more than just the EAD to return to the U.S.
What is my status while my case is pending?

• You remain in legal, F-1 status

• You may no longer work on-campus if your I-20 completion date is in the past

• You may not begin employment through OPT until you receive the EAD from USCIS
Can an OPT request be expedited by USCIS?

- Expedited processing is not an option for OPT
  - You must plan ahead to allow for the full 90 days of processing allowed by the F-1 regulations

- If pending over 75 days, ISSO can follow-up with USCIS
  - However, USCIS is **not required** to honor this request
When should I follow-up with ISSO?

- If you don’t receive an e-mail from USCIS or your check is not cashed within 3 weeks of sending your final OPT application to USCIS

- Correcting an error to your name as listed on your I-797 Receipt Notice

- To withdraw your pending OPT application
  - Program won’t be completed before new I-20 end date
  - Decide to save OPT for second degree at same level
  - Meet with an ISSO advisor PRIOR to the new completion date on your new I-20
During OPT
Travel Outside U.S. During OPT

2. Reentry for F-1 Nonimmigrants Traveling Outside the United States

This section of the FAQ applies to continuing F-1 students who travel outside the United States for five months or less.

2.L. Can I reenter during the 60-day period after finishing my program or OPT?

No. The 60-day “grace” period is only to prepare to leave the country.

2.M. Can I reenter if my request for OPT is pending?

Yes, but traveling during this time should be undertaken with caution. USCIS may send you a request for evidence while you are away, however, so you would want to make sure you have provided a correct U.S. address both to your DSO and on the application and would be able to send in requested documents. Also, if USCIS approves your OPT application, you will be expected to have your EAD in hand to re-enter the United States. Like a request for further information, USCIS can only send the EAD to your U.S. address.

2.N. Can I reenter if I left while on OPT?

If USCIS has approved your OPT you will be expected to have your EAD in hand to re-enter the United States, in addition to your Form I-20, valid passport and visa, and a letter of employment if you have one. If you exceed the limits on unemployment while outside the United States, you will not be eligible to re-enter the United States in F-1 status.

http://www.ice.gov/sevis/travel/faq_f2.htm#_Toc81222042
What do I need to travel outside U.S. during OPT?

• What documents do I need to travel?
  – Passport valid 6 months from date of U.S. entry
  – Valid F-1 visa
  – Travel validation signature on page 3 of OPT I-20
    • Only valid for 6 months during OPT
  – EAD
    • If is OPT still pending, take original I-797 Receipt Notice
      (we will have to mail EAD to you if it is approved while you are gone)
  – Job letter
What must I report to ISSO during OPT?

- You continue in F-1 status under the Iowa State I-20
  - ISSO must continue to report certain information

- Submit OPT Report Form to ISSO
  - Name, address of employer and when begin employment
  - When end employment (include employer name)

- Update local, living address on AccessPlus
What must I report to ISSO during OPT?

Instructions are in the e-mail sent to you notifying you that your EAD has arrived at ISSO. It looks like this:

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Stapes, Elizabeth M [ISS] <lstapes@iastate.edu>
Date: Mon, May 12, 2014 at 3:24 PM
Subject: OPT Card
To:

We have received your EAD Card for OPT. You may pick it up in Room 3248 Memorial Union. Please bring a photo I.D. with you to pick up your card. If you will be employed by Iowa State University, you will also need to complete Form I-9. Please call 294-1120 to check on availability of times to complete your I-9. OPT regulations require that you keep us informed of your employment situation. Please follow the instructions below to report your OPT Employment as soon as possible. We will also need you to notify us when your employer changes or you become unemployed. Finally, remember to update your living address within 10 days of any move.

1. Go to http://istart.its.iastate.edu
2. Click on the blue login button
3. Log-in using your Iowa State user ID and password (the same one you use for your Iowa State email). This will bring up the iStart menu

1. On the left hand menu, select "F-1 Practical Training" and then select "OPT Update Employer"

1. Enter your employer information. If you're working at a university or college, please include a department in the name of your employer.
   Example: Iowa State University, Dept. of Chemistry

1. Press the Update Employer button
2. Update your Local US Address using the same method
If you need to submit another update, just repeat the steps above. No need to follow up with a paper form.
When must I follow-up with ISSO during OPT?

• Consult with ISSO advisor if you want to begin study at a new degree level

• Received I-797 Approval Notice (send copy to ISSO)
  – Approved for H-1B status
  – Approved for a change to another non-immigrant status

• Plan to leave U.S. permanently in the middle of OPT period
What are my options at the end of my OPT?

- 60 day grace period following end date on EAD
  - Leave the U.S.
  - Apply for a change of status
  - Apply for change of level (new degree at ISU)
  - Apply for a transfer (new degree, new school)
  
  - **Yes,** you still get this 60 day grace period even if you choose an OPT start date 60 days from your program completion date.
  
  - **No,** you do not get this 60 day grace period after you accumulate 90 days of unemployment.