Welcome and Congratulations!

On thinking about your life post-K…
OPT, Grad School, Grace Period

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW…
(First, please know that we’ll miss you!)
😊
WHAT IS POST-COMPLETION OPT?

• OPT (optional practical training) is a job *directly related to your major.*
• OPT is granted for a total of 12 months.
• Student can distribute the 12 months over the 4-year period.
• Students can also use the entire 12 months after graduation.
• Or a combination of the two:
• Whatever amount of OPT you do AFTER graduation is Post-Completion OPT
You should plan to apply for post-completion OPT:
- (no more than) 90 days before the program end date (March)
- and no later than 60 days after the program end date (before August 15!)

And, USCIS will need to receive your OPT application no more than 30 days after the DSO (Alayna Pelfresne) updates your SEVIS record recommending OPT.

You DON’T have to have a job offer before applying for OPT! And you should NOT wait to receive a job offer to apply for OPT.

But, if you already do have job offer, include copy of letter of job offer to expedite OPT processing.

Application fee for OPT is $380

Non-refundable!
WHEN CAN I START WORKING? WHO CHOOSES THE START DATE?

- You can start working once you receive your EAD (Employment Authorization Document) and the start date on the card has been reached. (If the start date is reached and you don’t have your EAD, you can’t start working...you must wait for that card.)

- You choose the employment start date. Think about what you want/hope/need to do after graduating from K and remember, you’ll need to choose a start date within 60 days after graduation.
HOW LONG CAN I WORK?

• Typically, OPT is authorized for a total of 12 months.

• STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) Major?
You have the option to extend OPT an additional 17 months!
  • Have to first apply for standard OPT
  • Once you have begun the job, and are sure your employer is included in e-Verify, you can apply for an extension.
  • You MUST have job or job offer to be eligible for STEM extension
Things to consider...

• Once you apply for post-completion OPT and receive your EAD, you can be unemployed for a total of 90 days within the period approved for OPT (total of 120 days if approved for STEM OPT extension)

• You can have more than one job at the same time, or consecutive jobs—one right after another as long as all jobs you have are related to your major!

• Paid or unpaid employment is okay.

• Travel outside U.S. during post-completion OPT = Risky!
Grad School in U.S.?

- Request Transfer Out form (ask Alayna for this)
- Decide when you want your SEVIS record transferred to U.S. university
  - Will you want to travel home or elsewhere outside of US before going to grad school?
  - Will you travel around US before going to grad school?
- Turn completed form into Alayna along with copy of letter of acceptance to grad school
- By transferring your SEVIS record, no need to pay SEVIS or visa fees again, and you will keep the same SEVIS number.
How do I find out more about the job search and grad schools?

- Your friendly CCPD!

- They can help you with “researching graduate schools, funding your graduate education, composing personal statements, asking for letters of recommendation and/or references, studying for and taking graduate entrance exams, and adhering to an application timeline.”

- Lots of career resources, help with your job search and really helpful tips.

- [http://reason.kzoo.edu/ccd/](http://reason.kzoo.edu/ccd/)
Congratulations on your upcoming graduation from K!

It has been a true pleasure getting to know and work with you all. You will be missed!
Good luck out there & thanks for being awesome. 😊