

SBCC International Student Support Program

OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING (OPT) Federal Regulations Agreement

EMPLOYMENT

- You cannot begin employment until you have received the EAD card and the start date listed on the card is reached. You must cease employment by the end date on your EAD card.
- You must submit a copy of your Employment Authorization Document (EAD card) to your SBCC Advisor.
- You must work at least 20 hours per week (on average).
- You are allowed a maximum of 90 days (including weekends and holidays) of unemployment during your OPT authorization period. Your I-20 and OPT may be terminated in SEVIS after 90 days if no employment has been recorded in SEVIS.
- Employment for OPT must be related to your major. You must notify your SBCC Advisor within 10 days each time you start, add, or end a job. Employment reporting requirements include employer name, start date, end date, employer address, and description of how job is related to your major. Your Advisor will update SEVIS with your employment information and a new I-20 showing your employment status will be issued to you.

TRAVEL

- Travel to another country is not recommended while OPT is pending and/or if you do not have full-time employment. You may be questioned at U.S. ports-of-entry about the status of your OPT and employment. If your OPT application is pending, or if you do not have proof of valid employment, you may be denied admission to the U.S. by port-of-entry officials.
- During your OPT authorization period, you may travel outside of the U.S. and re-enter with you EAD card, I-20, visa/passport, and proof of valid employment, employment offers, or proof of job search to seek employment.
- You must obtain a new travel signature on your I-20 from an SBCC Advisor at least one week before you travel to another country.

PERSONAL

- If you change your address, you must notify your SBCC Advisor within 10 days and update your address online at www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis.

MEDICAL INSURANCE

- The SBCC International Office strongly recommends that you purchase the school-endorsed medical insurance for your OPT period. To be eligible for this insurance, you must submit the insurance application form, premium payment, and a copy of your OPT I-20 (page 1 and 2) to the insurance company no later than 30 days after the expiration of your current coverage. Insurance application forms are available in the International Office.

(continued on reverse)

ENROLLING

- You may enroll classes for recreational or professional development purposes while on OPT, but you may not seek another degree or university transfer requirements.
- If you are employed at SBCC, you may only enroll in up to 5.0 units for hourly positions and up to 6.0 units for student worker positions.

TRANSFERRING

- If you transfer to another school before the expiration date on your EAD card, your employment authorization ends automatically on the date your SEVIS record is transferred. Your SBCC Advisor needs a copy of your acceptance letter and SEVIS Release Request form.

ENDING OPT

- If you choose to end your OPT early to return to your home country, provide your SBCC Advisor with a copy of your flight itinerary showing your name and departure date.
- After your EAD card expires, you have 60 days to prepare for departure or gain admission to a new school or program, and transfer your SEVIS record.

I have read and understand my responsibilities as a non-immigrant F-1 student participating in post-completion Optional Practical Training. I understand that if I fail to maintain my status or to comply with these regulations, I may be in violation of my F-1 status. SBCC Advisors are required by law to report all violations to the Department of Homeland Security in SEVIS.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

To update your address follow these steps:

- Step 1: Notify your SBCC Advisor of your new address.
- Step 2: Go to <https://egov.uscis.gov/coa/displayCOAForm.do> and follow the instructions.
- Step 3: If your case status is pending, you must also notify the National Service Center at (800) 375-5283. This phone call will change the address on your OPT application, to ensure that your EAD card is sent to the correct address.
- Step 4: Update your address with the U.S. Postal Service. Visit <https://moversguide.usps.com> and fill out the "Official USPS Change of Address".