

Curricular Practical Training FAQ/s

- 1. Do I need CPT if my off-campus internship is unpaid?** Yes. The Student and Visitor Exchange Program considers “employment” to be paid OR unpaid.
- 2. Am I required to have CPT to attend an internship orientation or pre-internship training that takes place before the internship actually begins?** Yes. Any orientation or pre-training by the employer is considered part of the internship and requires CPT authorization?
- 3. Can CPT be authorized for an internship related to my minor?** No.
- 4. If applying for CPT, when may I start the internship or research?** You are eligible to work immediately AFTER you meet with the DSO, have your CPT authorized, and receive the CPT I-20.
- 5. My class requires weekly participation in a local school, hospital, or clinic. Do I need CPT?** Possibly. Please consult with your DSO well before beginning this.
- 6. Am I allowed to work remotely in the U.S.?** Possibly. Only if it meets the CPT criteria and you have received prior authorization.
- 7. May I work remotely in the U.S. for a company that is outside of the United States?** No. ANY work for an employer other than IWU and Sodexo requires authorization. CPT only authorizes employment for companies with a physical presence within the U.S.
Examples that are strictly prohibited without prior authorization include:
 - *Teaching English through an on-line platform, no matter the location of the students
 - *Graphic design work for any company in the US.
 - *Google Summer of Code work.
 - *Purchasing items in the US to be sold online to people in other countries.
 - *Receiving financial compensation from companies who advertise on an app you’ve created.
- 8. Does selling old text books or my used laptop require CPT since I’ll receive money for those items?** No. Incidentally selling your used belongings for money is not considered ‘off-campus employment.’ This is a common student practice designed to save students money, and is not considered to be regular employment. However, serving as a middle-person who brokers sales between other students *would* be considered unauthorized employment. The student would be viewed as having created an independent business without prior authorization.
- 9. Do I need CPT to help in a Mandarin class at a local elementary school?** It depends. If you are helping in a Mandarin class for 2-4 hours/week with some regularity, you may not need CPT. If you are attending a local classroom supporting the teacher, tutoring students, as part of a class requirement, then yes, you may need CPT.
- 10. How long does it take for CPT authorization?** Plan ahead! This involves approval from your faculty advisor, your internship/research supervisor and me. Dealing with 3 others’ schedules can take many days or weeks. Your need for CPT is only one of many things each attend to. Completed documentation needs to be submitted to the DSO *at least* 1 week before the 30 minute CPT appointment. Once approved, authorization is immediate. If you delay completion and submission of the documentation to the DSO, your start date may need to be changed to a later date.