

Pre-Completion OPT

Pre-completion OPT allows students who have not yet completed a degree program to be authorized for off-campus employment.

General Info

- The application process for pre-completion OPT is the same as for other types of OPT and requires 2-3 months processing by USCIS.
- Students on pre-completion OPT are still required to meet the full-time enrollment requirement each long semester (fall and spring)
- Students on pre-completion OPT can only work part-time during school sessions. They can work full-time during official school vacations.
- Pre-completion OPT must end by the student's program completion date.
- Unlike post-completion OPT, students on pre-completion OPT are not required to limit days of unemployment and do not have reporting requirements, other than for changes of address.
- F-1 students are eligible for one year of OPT per educational level. Time on pre-completion OPT is deducted from that year.
- Because of the enrollment requirement and part-time employment limitations, most RRCC students choose post-completion OPT.

Eligibility

In order to be eligible for pre-completion OPT, you must meet the following criteria:

- You have been lawfully enrolled as a full-time student at least one full academic year (two long semesters).
- You are currently in F-1 status.
- You are planning to complete your degree.

Application

- Submit to the EL/IS Office:
 - [OPT I-20 Request Form](#)
 - USCIS Form I-765 (Obtain from www.uscis.gov or the ISSO office)
 - [OPT Recommendation Form](#)
 - Copy of previous EAD and corresponding I-20 or H1b I-94 approval notice if you had a previous USCIS work authorization (CPT or on-campus employment not applicable)
- The OPT I-20 will be processed within 3 business days.
- You will be sent an email when the OPT I-20 is ready for pickup.
- Compile and mail your application to USCIS.