

Important reminders for OPT students

Be sure to describe how your OPT employment is directly related to your major area of study.

There are two options to describe how your job relates to your major. (1) Complete this form or (2) update SEVIS by using the SEVP Portal. If you use the portal, update the following field, "Explain how employment is related to student's course of study."

Below are some examples of descriptions (provided by SEVP):

1. Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering: I work full time as an Electrical Engineer at ABC Corp., a government contractor. In my job, I analyze client requirements for electrical systems and provide them with cost estimates of such systems. My work requires understanding of electrical circuit theory, which I studied in-depth at the University of ABC.
2. Bachelor's degree in Business: I work full time as a Loan Officer at a mortgage company, Happy Homes, where I meet with clients and evaluate, authorize and recommend approval of loan applications. On a daily basis, I use the knowledge I gained in my credit analysis, sales and marketing classes that I took as part of my major program of study.
3. Master's degree in Music: I am working at a hospital playing the harp in patient rooms. I also conduct hands-on harp beginner workshops for long-term patients. On average, I work at the hospital 35 hours a week. My duties directly utilize the skills and knowledge I acquired from my coursework and degree in music therapy.
4. PhD in Computer Science: I am employed as a Computer and Information Research Scientist at ABC Research Institute. I work as part of a team of scientists and engineers that designs experiments to test the operation of various software systems. My work builds on research in complex algorithms and machine learning, which I studied as part of my dissertation.
5. Master's degree in Kinesiology: I am working 25 hours a week in a health food store as a consultant for Self-Made Inc., designing and teaching exercise classes that are incorporated into a customer's overall nutrition and exercise plan. My designs and customer instruction draw upon my studies and classwork in exercise therapy and physical reconditioning.

Stay within unemployment limits.

Students on post-completion OPT may have up to 90 days of unemployment.

- Each day (including weekends) during the period when OPT authorization begins and ends that you do not have qualifying employment counts as a day of unemployment.
- OPT authorization and accrual of any unemployment time begins on the employment start date shown on your EAD.
- Time spent outside the U.S. during an approved period of post-completion OPT counts as unemployment, unless you are still employed during a period of leave authorized by the employer or are traveling as part of your employment.

Students will only have access to the portal for six months after OPT ends.

SEVP only allows students access to the SEVP Portal for six months after their OPT ends. This is important because students will need to print or save a copy of their portal record for future reference, including their Event History.

Additional Resources

OPT Guide <https://www.uakron.edu/international/forms/docs/OPT-guide.pdf>

Study in the States <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/>

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