# COMPARISON OF F-1 EMPLOYMENT OPTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligibility Criteria</th>
<th>ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT</th>
<th>OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING (OPT)</th>
<th>CURRICULAR PRACTICAL TRAINING (CPT)</th>
<th>SEVERE ECONOMIC HARDSHIP EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Must maintain legal F-1 status | Must be a full-time student for at least one academic year. Can perform OPT:  
- Full- or part-time during summer vacation  
- Part-time while school is in session  
- Full- or part-time after completion of coursework (excluding theses or the equivalent)  
- Full-time after completion of study  
- Must apply for OPT before completion of study | Must be a full-time student for at least one academic year. Must be required as a graduation requirements or be an integral part of the curriculum. (Course must be approved by the Office of the Registrar.) Available only before completion of study | Must have one academic year of F-1 status Employment must not interfere with full course of study Available only before completion of study |
| Maximum Length | Up to 20 hours per week during the term Full-time work allowed during annual vacation and term breaks | 12 months Part-time will be deducted at 50% of the full-time rate | Full- or part-time work allowed Unlimited hours, duration | Generated 1 year at a time or until your program end date, whichever is shorter |
| Advantages | Before completion of study:  
- No permission required  
- Work does not have to be related to the field of study | No job offer required  
- Flexible | No fee  
- Authorized by the U-M International Center | Work does not have to be related to the field of study |
| Disadvantages | Before completion of study, employment must be located at the U-M Ann Arbor campus  
- Time used before completion of study will be subtracted from the maximum 12-month limit  
- Work should be related to the field of study  
- Application must be received by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) before completion of study and the USCIS must approve decision prior to employment | Full-time CPT for 12 months or more disqualifies the student from OPT  
- Job offer required  
- Must be enrolled in the eligible course while engaging in CPT | Must demonstrate severe economic hardship due to unforeseen circumstances  
- Application must be received by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and the USCIS must approve prior to employment |
| Documentation Required | Valid U-M Ann Arbor I-20  
Valid passport  
I-94 card | SEVIS I-20  
Letter from your academic advisor  
I-765 and fee  
2 passport-style photos  
OPT recommendation request form | SEVIS I-20  
CPT request form  
Job offer  
Proof of registration for CPT course  
Permission from your academic or research advisor | SEVIS I-20  
I-765 and fee  
2 passport-style photos  
Documents proving economic hardship |