



Graduate F-1 Students and CPT

Curricular Practical Training (CPT) provides GBC students with the vital opportunity to solidify their classroom learning through real-life experiences in the professional environment.

Some graduate students may be eligible for employment under CPT as early as the start of their program. Others must wait until they have completed one full year of academic study before gaining CPT eligibility. CPT can be authorized for one full year at a time, and students have the ability to

Students who are eligible to apply for CPT immediately must meet both criteria below:

- Have completed one full year of academic study at a regionally-accredited, not-for-profit college or university in the U.S., and
- Are currently in active F1 status

Students on working visas (H1B, L1, L2, J1, J2) who are seeking a change of status to F1 may be permitted to work immediately upon enrollment and change of status approval, subject to Designated School Official (DSO) approval.

Students who are NOT eligible to apply for CPT until they have completed one full academic year (3 consecutive semesters) at GBC if they:

- Are currently on H4, F2, or B1/B2 visas and seeking change of status, and/or
- Have not studied academically at a regionally-accredited, not-for-profit college or university in the U.S. for one full academic year (ESL programs are not considered academic study), and/or
- Are arriving directly from overseas on a new I-20 with a new SEVIS ID number (F1 residency requirements met on one SEVIS ID# are NOT transferrable to a new SEVIS ID#)

Please note that “eligible to apply for CPT” is not to be understood as “approved for CPT.” Each CPT application is reviewed by Academic Affairs and International Student Services to determine if the student has met the eligibility listed above, as well as the minimum GPA and all financial obligations to the College.

The CPT application itself is reviewed to determine that the employment meets all requirements, including direct reflection of the student’s academic major, and an authentic ability to benefit the student’s course of study. The College in no way guarantees the approval of any CPT for any student prior to the submission of the CPT application, and the College will revoke CPT privileges if the student fails to maintain satisfactory academic progress, fails to attend class regularly, or fails to uphold F-1 regulations in any way.