Components Of Optional Practical Training

1. Final Semester of Study
   Only F-1 students in their final semester of study are eligible to apply for OPT.

2. OPT Application Opens
   90 days before program date. Select an OPT start date within 60 days after your program end date.
   Apply Early!

3. Last Day to Apply
   60 days after program end date

4. Mail OPT application to USCIS
   Don’tdelay! Send your application immediately to USCIS after you receive your OPT I-20.
   Make sure to obtain a tracking number.

5. Receipt Notice
   In approximately 2-3 weeks after USCIS receives your application, expect to receive the I-797 Notice of Action in the mail. Keep this with your records.

6. EAD Card
   3.5 months is the average processing time to receive your approved OPT Employment Authorization Document Card.

7. Reporting Requirements
   Any changes to employment or personal information must be reported to the SEVP Portal within 10 days. You must inform ISO if you decide to end OPT or start new educational program.

Options After Post-Completion OPT

- **Further Education**
  OPT is granted once per degree level. OPT STEM can be granted twice, but only once per degree level.
  Outside of employment, you can remain in the United States by pursuing a new degree program.

- **OPT STEM Extension**
  If you are in a STEM program, you are eligible for an additional 18 months of employment. Apply 90 days before your OPT authorization expires. Visit theva.edu for more information.

- **Change Your Status**
  Examples: Change of status to H-1B through employer, or change of status to F-2 through spouse. Contact an immigration attorney to learn more about other visa types to remain in the United States.

- **Depart the United States**
  After OPT authorization ends, you are permitted 60 days to remain in the United States, after which you must depart or change your status.