

ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT

F-1 students are generally permitted to work part-time on the premises of the school that issued their currently valid I-20, while they are attending that school and maintaining their F-1 status, subject to the restrictions discussed in this section. This type of employment is "incident to status," and does not require DSO authorization or updates to the SEVIS record.

- Eligible immediately upon obtaining F-1 status; no waiting period
- Must be considered "on-campus"
- Can be used throughout period that student is pursuing a full course of study
- Limited to 20 hours/week when school is in session; full-time during school breaks
- Can be in any on-campus position; does not have to be related to course of study
- Does not require approval from DSO

Types of on-campus employment

1. Work on the school premises, employed by the I-20 issuing institution; the school is the employer
2. Work on the school premises, employed by on-campus commercial firms which provide student services on campus, such as the school bookstore or cafeteria.
3. Work done at off-campus locations, but treated as on-campus. This may also include work at an off-campus location which is educationally affiliated with the school and associated with the established curriculum or related to contractually funded research projects and be an integral part of the student's educational program.

Limitations & Special Issues

- The regulations specify that "Upon initial entry to begin a new course of study, an F-1 student may not begin on-campus employment more than 30 days prior to the actual start of classes."
- On-campus work authorized incident to status is limited to no more than 20 total hours per week while school is in session

- On-campus employment may be full-time during summer and other vacation periods for students who are eligible and intend to register for the subsequent academic term.
- Students eligible for "special student relief" can be approved by the DSO to work full-time.
- A student may not engage in on-campus employment during the 60-day grace period following the completion of a course of study or thereafter, except in the following situations: employment authorized for OPT and employment between academic levels at the same school.

Eligibility & Procedures

Eligibility to engage in on-campus employment is "incident" to F-1 status. This means that eligible students currently maintaining F-1 status may engage in on-campus employment at the institution that issued his or her current I-20, within the limitations outlined above, without requesting formal authorization from either a DSO or USCIS, and without updating the student's SEVIS record. Employment eligibility ends whenever a student fails to maintain status.

No formal authorization is required for on-campus employment, except in the case of on-campus employment over 20 hours per week under the Special Student Relief procedures.