

## **Information for F-1 Students Engaged in Optional Practical Training**

*During your OPT, you continue to be in F-1 status and Troy University is responsible for maintaining your immigration record*

### **YOU are responsible for providing the following information to the International Student Advisor during OPT period**

- Current address, telephone number, email address
- Change of status to a different category (please provide proof)
- Departure from the U.S. prior to the expiration date of your OPT
- Admission to pursue another degree program
  - Once your record is changed from initial to active status for the new degree program, OPT is no longer valid

### **Travel outside the United States after OPT has been approved**

#### **You must have the following documents to reenter the U.S.**

- Valid SEVIS I-20 showing OPT approval dates and International Student Advisor's signature for travel within the last 12 months
- Valid visa
  - If your F-1 visa has expired, you must obtain a new visa from a U.S. Consulate abroad prior to reentering the U.S. You must contact the consular office where you plan to apply to find out the application requirements and processing times. If OPT is very important to you, you should consider the possibility that you may not be granted the visa and would not be allowed to return to the U.S.
- Valid passport (valid for at least six months after your expected arrival date back into the U.S.)
- OPT Card (Employment Authorization Document or EAD)
- Proof of employment offer (letter from employer – should include the date they are expecting you to begin or return to the position)

***According to SEVIS operating procedures, if your OPT has been approved and you depart before you get a job, your OPT ends and you cannot enter the U.S. If you have a job, you may travel and reenter to resume work at the same job.***

### **Travel outside the United States while OPT is pending**

**If you are still enrolled in classes and plan to return prior to the end of the term and prior to the expiration date of your I-20, you must have the following documents to reenter the U.S.**

- Valid SEVIS I-20 with current International Student Advisor's signature for travel
- Valid F-1 visa
- Valid passport (at least six months after your expected arrival back into the U.S.)
- Academic transcript or enrollment certification letter

*If you have graduated, your SEVIS I-20 has expired, and you do not have your OPT card yet, travel outside the U.S is not recommended.*

**IMPORTANT: Reentry into the U.S is never guaranteed.**

### **After your OPT card expires, you have the following options**

- Depart the U.S. within 60 days of your OPT expiration date
- Obtain admission to another degree program in the U.S within 60 days of your OPT expiration date
  - You should receive an I-20 for the new program within the 60 grace period
  - You should begin the new program within five months from the OPT expiration date
- Obtain change of status to a different nonimmigrant category
  - You are responsible for obtaining appropriate legal status if you wish to stay in the U.S.

***The International Student Advisor must have your current contact information and change of status information to complete reporting requirements in SEVIS***