

**Syracuse University**  
**February 4, 2016 Edition**  
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**Important Issues**

**IMPORTANT**

**Tax Information**

Tax information is not available at this time. GLACIER Tax Prep will be available for Syracuse University students in mid-February. Please watch the SCIS News and the [Slutzker Center website](#) for more information.

**STEM OPT Update**

On January 23, 2016, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia extended the time it had previously given the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to reissue the regulations providing for the STEM extension of Optional Practical Training. Initially, DHS had been given until February 12, 2016. DHS now has until May 10, 2016 to reissue STEM OPT regulations.

In response to an August 2015 court ruling dictating that the STEM extension of OPT would no longer exist after February 12, 2016 unless DHS correctly published a new regulation, DHS published a regulation on October 19, 2015 hoping to have it implemented before the February 12, 2016 deadline. The process of promulgating regulations requires time for public comment, consideration of the comments by DHS and a response from DHS. DHS received 50,500 comments to the published regulation and has realized that it is unable to read and react to the comments before the court established deadline of February 12, 2016. Therefore, DHS requested a 3 month extension (until May 10, 2016) from the court and it was granted. The Court has indicated that there will be no further extensions so the STEM regulation must be implemented before May 12, 2016 or the STEM extension of OPT will no longer exist.

In the meantime, the employment authorization of students currently authorized for the STEM extension of OPT will continue until at least May 10, 2016. Students who are eligible for the STEM extension of OPT may apply for the STEM extension until at least May 10, 2016. To be eligible for the STEM extension of OPT, you must be authorized for OPT on the basis of your program of study in a STEM field and have employment with an employer that

participates in E-verify. You may apply for the STEM extension up to 120 days before the end date of your authorized OPT.

DHS requested this extension of 90 days so they must believe they can meet this deadline to publish new STEM OPT regulations. We do not know if DHS will be able to meet this deadline. We do not know if DHS will be able to implement new STEM regulations by May 10, 2016. The October 19, 2015 proposed STEM regulations provided some changes to the current STEM regulations. We do not know if the STEM regulations will be finalized as proposed in October 2015 or if DHS will further change the proposed regulation based on the comments they received. We have no information about what will happen after May 10, 2016. We will inform you of any guidance we receive.

## Slutzker Center News and Events

### Curricular/ Optional Practical Training Seminar

In order to apply for CPT or OPT you should attend a CPT/OPT Seminar before you apply. CPT/OPT seminars are held on the first and third Wednesday, and second Friday, of each month at the Slutzker Center. The CPT seminar begins at 3 PM and the OPT seminar begins at 3:45 PM.

From Wednesday, February 3 to Wednesday, March 30 CPT/OPT seminars will be held in other locations on campus. The seminar information is also available on our [website](#). Be sure to arrive early. If the seminar is full, you will have to wait to attend the next session.

Wednesdays 2/17, 3/2, 3/16, 3/30 – 500 Hall of Languages  
Fridays 2/12, 3/11, 3/25 – Kittredge Auditorium, Huntington Beard Crouse (HBC)

We process CPT/OPT on Mondays from 3PM – 5PM and Thursdays from 10AM – Noon. If you cannot attend the seminar, you must review the information on our website before you can apply for CPT/OPT. In order to apply for CPT/OPT you must have all necessary documents prepared when you arrive at the Slutzker Center for CPT/OPT processing.

### Deadlines

#### Graduate Students: Certificate of Full Time Status February 9, 2016

To be considered full-time for immigration purposes, a graduate student must be registered for 9 credit hours per semester except in the last semester (if fewer credits are needed to graduate). Graduate students who are registered for fewer than 9 credit hours and who do not have an assistantship (TA, RA, or GA), but are considered to be full-time students because they are working on a thesis or dissertation or doing an internship, should file a [Certificate of Full Time Status](#) with the Registrar's Office by February 9, 2016.

#### Graduate and Undergraduate Students: Last Semester Memo February 9, 2016

If Spring 2016 will be your last semester and if you are registered less than full-time (Graduate students: 9 credit hours, Undergraduate students: 12 credit hours) you must file a [Last Semester Memo](#) with the Slutzker Center no later than February 9, 2016.

Note: you can only have one last semester. Please discuss any concerns you have about not being able to graduate in May with your academic department before you submit this form. Once you submit a Last Semester Memo, we will adjust the expected completion date on your I-20 accordingly.

Both forms are available on our website, under [forms](#).

## Syracuse University Events

### Mix It Up February 5, 5 - 7PM Schine 304

Dinner, conversation, and a chance to meet people from around the world. All are welcome.

For more information, click [here](#).

## DPS-Student Dialogue Circles

The Division of Student Affairs (DSA) is currently seeking students to participate in dialogue circles with officers from the Department of Public Safety (DPS). Dialogue circles are facilitated, purposeful discussions that help build respect and understanding. There are two circles being offered this semester, one on Tuesdays and one on Wednesdays, from 4 to 6 PM in the Hall of Languages. The dates for these circles are listed below. Participants are asked to commit to attend all five sessions. Interested students can visit the [DPS-Student Dialogue Circles webpage](#) for details and the application.

Tuesdays: Feb. 9, Feb. 16, Feb. 23, March 1, and March 8

Wednesdays: Feb. 10, Feb. 17, Feb. 24, March 2, and March 9

## Phi Beta Delta

Emails inviting qualified students, faculty, scholars and staff to apply for membership in Phi Beta Delta, the International Honorary Society of Syracuse University went out a few weeks ago. The deadline for submitting essays and applications was February 2, and many students will now be receiving letters of acceptance, with a reminder that the beautiful Induction Ceremony will be held at Hendricks Chapel on Friday, April 1, at 3 p.m., followed by a reception in the Heroy Geology Atrium. Sadly, many qualified students did not respond to the invitation. Qualified students include UGs with a GPA of at least a 3.4 and GR students with a GPA of at least 3.75. You are missing a wonderful opportunity to engage in a vibrant, globally focused organization of students, staff, faculty and scholars during the upcoming year. If anyone needs an extension of this deadline, or did not receive an invitation and you feel you are qualified, please contact the Interim President, Jackie Monsour, at [jhmonsour@syr.edu](mailto:jhmonsour@syr.edu) immediately. Don't miss out on a wonderful credential for your resume and an enriching experience in our global community.





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📞 516-884-3017  
✉ chaimill58@gmail



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### Important Reminders

[Full-Time Course of Study](#)

[Meeting Your Health Requirements](#)

[HR notice for on-campus employees](#)

[Is it your last semester of study?](#)

[Transferring from SU to a new U.S. school](#)

[Optional Practical Training EAD cards](#)

[Address Change Reporting Requirements](#)

[Keeping Good Rental Records](#)

[Protecting Your Property](#)

[US Embassy Announcements](#)

[Check your VISA Application Status in India](#)

[E-Verify Employers & Federal Contractors List](#)

[Copycat "Immigration Help" Sites](#)

[CPT/OPT Seminars](#)

[Studying Abroad](#)

[International Student Arrests & Public Safety](#)

"Happiness is not a matter of intensity but of balance, order, rhythm and harmony." - **Thomas Merton**

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a dark blue rectangular background.The Twitter logo, featuring the word "twitter" in a light blue, lowercase, sans-serif font, with a blue bird icon to its right.

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