

Syracuse University
January 7, 2016 Edition

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Important Issues

Be Aware of Scams

There are a number of scammers which target students and especially international students. When we find out about new forms of scams, we attempt to notify you through the SCIS News. However, scams are constantly changing and becoming more unique and sophisticated. If someone is demanding money from you, we recommend that you seek advice from our office or DPS before paying them or giving them any personal information.

*Scams often increase around the holidays. Be aware of offers/ sales that seem too good to be true or extremely urgent. If you have concerns about possible scam calls, emails, or other encounters, you may contact DPS to file a report.

STEM OPT Update

On August 12, 2015, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia issued a court decision finding that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) did not follow required procedures when it created the STEM extension of Optional Practical Training (OPT) back in 2008. The Court decision dictates that the STEM extension of OPT will no longer exist after February 12, 2016 but gives DHS six months (from August 12, 2015 until February 12, 2016) to submit the STEM extension regulations again following proper procedures. These six months should give DHS enough time to reissue the STEM extension regulations following proper procedures.

In the meantime, this court decision has no immediate impact on the employment authorization of students currently authorized for the STEM extension of OPT. This court decision does not prevent students who are eligible for the STEM extension of OPT from applying for the STEM extension by February 12, 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.

We have been informed that DHS is reviewing this court decision and will issue guidance in the next few weeks. 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/ OPT you should attend an CPT/OPT Seminar before you apply. CPT/OPT seminars are 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.

***Please note: We have canceled the seminars for Friday, January 15. The next seminar is scheduled for Wednesday, January 20. The seminar information is also available on our [website](#).**

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 or 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.

Make sure your address is updated in MySlice

Federal regulations require that F-1 students must report to their DSO (Designated School Official/International Student Advisor) any change of address within 10 days of moving. International students at Syracuse University should notify the Slutzker Center of address changes by logging into their MySlice account and updating the CURRENT address.

If your address is not up-to-date, it may prevent us from registering your SEVIS record for the Spring 2016 semester. So please login to your MySlice account today and make sure the CURRENT address listed is where you are currently living. For detailed instructions, click [here](#).

Students on OPT should update their address and employer information within 10 days of any change by submitting the [OPT Students Info Update form](#) found in the Forms section of the SCIS website.

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.

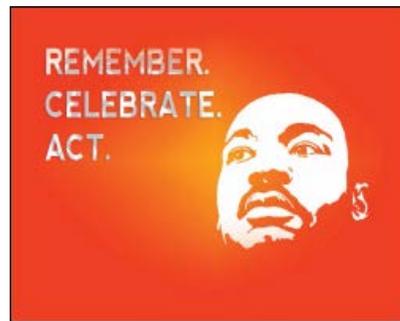
Note: you can only have one last semester. Please discuss any concerns you have about not being able to graduate in May with your academic department before you submit this form. Once you submit a Last Semester Memo, we will adjust the expected completion date on your I-20 accordingly.

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

Syracuse University Events

31st Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Ticket on sale now January, 30 12noon - 4PM

Tickets are now on sale for the 31st Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration dinner.



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

Cultural and Community Events

Clinton Square Ice Rink See schedule for hours of operation Open through the winter

Ice skating season is now open at the Clinton Square Ice Rink in downtown Syracuse.

For schedules, admissions, and skate rental fees, click [here](#).



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](#)

"After all is said and done, more is said than done." - **Aesop**



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If you would like to submit news or events for the SCIS Newsletter, please send your information and any related graphics to ejvoigt@sy.edu with subject line as "Article for SCIS Newsletter"