



SEVIS OPT Dates Job Aid

OPT DATE FIELDS		CAPTURES	EXAMPLE
DSO Recommended	OPT Start Date	The date the student wants OPT work authorization to begin, as entered by the P/DSO in SEVIS.	Bob will finish his academic program on May 25, 2014. On April 30, 2014, Bob requests OPT authorization of June 1, 2014 to May 31, 2015. His P/DSO processes the request. In SEVIS: DSO Recommended OPT Start: 06/01/2014 DSO Recommended OPT End: 05/31/2015
	OPT End Date	The date the student wants OPT work authorization to end, as entered by the P/DSO in SEVIS.	
USCIS-Approved	OPT Start Date	The first date the student can legally work, as approved by USCIS. SEVIS receives this date from USCIS via interface.	USCIS receives the OPT application in mid-May 2014. By the time it is processed, it is June 20, 2014. They authorize OPT from June 20, 2014 through June 19, 2015 and issue the Employment Authorization Document (EAD). In SEVIS: USCIS Approved Start: 06/20/2014 USCIS Approved End: 06/19/2015
	OPT End Date	The last date the student can legally work, as approved by USCIS. SEVIS receives this date from USCIS via interface.	
Actual	OPT Start Date	The first date the student can legally work. By default it is the same as the USCIS-approved OPT Start Date. SEVIS receives this date from USCIS via interface.	SEVIS automatically populates the Actual OPT dates with the dates received from USCIS. In October 2014, Bob is accepted into a new academic program, which he wants to begin in January 2015. He contacts the DSO at his current school to coordinate the transfer of the SEVIS Record. They agree on a Transfer Release date of December 30, 2014. The P/DSO processes the transfer. On December 30, 2014, the SEVIS record is transferred to the new school and Bob's employment authorization ends. SEVIS changes the Actual OPT End date to December 30, 2014. In SEVIS: Actual Start: 06/20/2014 Actual End: 12/30/2014
	OPT End Date	The last date the student can legally work. By default it is the same as the USCIS-approved OPT End Date, but is modified by SEVIS as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortened to the Transfer Release date, if the student transfers to another school before end of authorized OPT. • Shortened to Registration date, if the student changes educational level before end of authorized OPT. • Shortened to Termination date, if record is terminated before end of authorized OPT. • Lengthened if the student is eligible for Cap Gap extension of OPT. 	