



## SEVIS Release 6.20 Pre-Release Webinar

April 10, 2015 – Webinar briefing on SEVIS Release 6.20, Employment Information  
(Release Date: April 24, 2015)

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### Employment Information Page

**Q: Can you clarify the different kinds of off-campus employment information available in SEVIS?**

A: There are three basic types of SEVIS Employment information: Optional Practical Training (OPT), Curricular Practical Training (CPT), and off-campus employment. Off-campus employment includes employment for economic hardship and an internship with an international organization.

**Q: Can you define Optional Practical Training (OPT) and Curricular Practical Training (CPT)?**

A: Curricular Practical Training (CPT) is an integral part of the student’s academic program. It is taken during a student’s program.

Optional Practical Training (OPT) is related to the student’s program of study. It is not required by the program. OPT can be taken during a student’s program or after a student completes it.

**Q: How do you imagine school officials would find this page useful?**

A: The Employment Information page centralizes all employment authorization information. This will be helpful for officials granting CPT for a student or recommending OPT, particularly when working with transfer students. This page may not prove useful for all SEVP-approved schools, but many schools will find this page helpful in their daily responsibilities.

**Q: As a school official, is this information intended to assist me in determining eligibility for employment authorizations?**

A: Yes.

**Q: Can school officials use this page to confirm if a student has had OPT at the same or different academic level at a previous institution?**



A: Yes. This is especially useful when working with transfer students. On the Employment Information page, users will be able to see the student's employment information (with the same SEVIS ID) at previous levels and previous institutions.

**Q: Will adjudicators at USCIS be able to access the information on the Employment Information page?**

A: Yes. USCIS will be able to access this page.

**Q: Will this employment information be printed on the Form I-20?**

A: No. There are no current plans to change what employment information displays on the Form I-20. However, SEVP plans to review what prints on the form concerning employment information after the June release. If you have any questions or suggestions, email [sevistechicalfeedback@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:sevistechicalfeedback@ice.dhs.gov). This will help with our analysis.

**Q: Is this information available for non-active SEVIS records?**

A: Yes. The link to the Employment Information page is available for records not in Active status.

**Q: Is this information available for transfer records in Draft status?**

A: Yes. The link to the Employment Information page is available for transfer records in Draft status.

**Q: Will the SEVIS User Manual be updated to include information about this page?**

A: Yes. There is also a new resource, the SEVIS F-1 Employment User Guide, which is available on Study in the States.

## Employment Information Page Display

**Q: Will past employment authorizations be available on this page, or will it just include information about authorizations after the April [2015] release?**

A: The Employment Information page will have a complete employment authorization history for all students by SEVIS ID. Past authorizations will be included, if they were authorized under the same SEVIS ID.

**Q: Will the cap gap authorization show as a separate entry on the page?**

A: No. Instead of an entry labeled "cap gap" on the page, the cap gap authorization will be demonstrated by the authorization dates. For example, an OPT authorization originally approved by USCIS to end in June, but which actually ends on September 30, will show the September date demonstrating the cap gap authorization.

**Q: Will the STEM OPT Extension be listed as a separate entry on the Employment Information page, or as an extension of the original OPT entry?**

A: The STEM OPT Extension is listed as a separate entry on the Employment Information page. The extension shows as a new employment occurrence, primarily because it is a different authorization.



**Q: Will we see information about authorizations that were denied or cancelled?**

A: Yes. Information about all authorizations are displayed, including information about denials, withdrawals, and cancellations.

**Q: Will the Employment Information page provide information on student unemployment?**

A: No. The Employment Authorization page only has information on student authorizations for employment. It does not have any specific information about student employers or when the student is actually working.

SEVP plans to add the ability for officials to provide information about student employers in the November 2015 release. This will make calculating periods of unemployment easier.

**Q: Will Change of Status requests show on the Employment Information page?**

A: No. Requests to change status to H-1B will not show on this page, as it only has information related to F/M student employment authorizations. However, if a student has additional F-1 employment related to the cap gap, this will appear on the Employment Information page.

**Q: Will we see employment authorizations for a student who has been an F-1 and a J-1?**

A: No, a student cannot hold both designations at the same time, so we can only show employment information related to one SEVIS ID at a time.

### F/M Employment

**Q: There seems to be an issue with the batch schema using the DSO Recommended Dates instead of the Actual OPT Dates. Are there plans to correct this issue?**

A: Yes. We have a fix planned for the April 24, 2015 release.

**Q: I can see the Active OPT indicator for some students approved for OPT, but not all of them. Will the indicator display for every approved student after the April release?**

A: The Active OPT indicator will display during the dates of the student's authorized OPT period; It will not display as soon as the OPT is approved by USCIS.

If you see a record that should have an Active OPT indicator (for example, a record where the student is within their authorization period), but does not, take a screenshot and send it to [sevistechicalfeedback@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:sevistechicalfeedback@ice.dhs.gov). We do not currently know of any cases where the indicator is not displaying when it should, so screenshots would be helpful.

**Q: What should we do when a student is approved for OPT, but the approval is not showing in SEVIS? We have a case where a student has received their Employment Authorization Document (EAD), but the request is still pending in SEVIS.**



A: If you have a student approved for OPT but do not see the approval in SEVIS, you must open a Help Desk Ticket to resolve this issue. If you have opened a ticket, but have not heard anything, call and follow up. There may have been some issues with cases during our recent Help Desk transition.

**Q: What are our responsibilities, if any, once we are able to see how much time a student is unemployed?**

A: [SEVP policy guidance](#) on reporting student unemployment has not changed.

**Q: Are there plans to show detailed reduced course load history?**

A: Yes. We are currently developing plans to show a detailed reduced course loads history, but the specifics for this enhancement are under consideration. We will notify users when we have more information.