

Reminders & Updates



APPOINTMENTS



Make an appointment if:

- ⦿ you need more information on procedures or processes
- ⦿ you've received a blue letter from DHS

You do not need to make an appointment if:

- ⦿ you're dropping paperwork off
- ⦿ picking paperwork up
- ⦿ information was covered during a forum

FORA



- ⦿ Fora and the UDC website are for your benefit!
- ⦿ Fora provide you with important updates about DHS and other university policies
- ⦿ If you are not able to attend a forum discussion, please visit the UDC website, www.udc.edu and see the Connecting to a New World document, or send me an e-mail with concerns. Individual appointments will not be used to repeat information covered in the fora.



WORK AUTHORIZATION – CPT/ECON

- ◉ **Curricular Practical Training** - CPT “must be an integral part of an established curriculum.” It allows an F-1 student to engage in “alternate work/study, internship, cooperative education or any other type of required internship or practicum.” A student may choose to receive wages or academic credit for this experience. **Should you start an internship without prior authorization, your CPT will not be approved.** CPT does not require USCIS approval. CPT employment can many times create an opportunity for OPT opportunities.

- ◉ **Economic Hardship:**

Applies to students whose financial situation has changed unexpectedly or beyond their control. It may include any of the following: loss of sponsorship (partial or total), substantial fluctuations in currency or exchange rates, large increases in tuition, medical bills, and/or unexpected expenses. **Do not immediately apply for this.**



OPT REMINDERS

- Students may engage in OPT after being enrolled for at least one full academic year.
- Employment must be in the student's area of study.
- Passport must be valid for at least 6 months into the future.
- Prior use of **full-time CPT** for one year or more makes you ineligible for OPT.
- Applicants please hold on to your photos and checks/money orders when dropping off your OPT applications.

OPT

- ⦿ Students should have viable employment by program end date; this could be employment from current CPT.
- ⦿ If you have a job offer, submit the letter of employment with your OPT application.
- ⦿ Students must submit documents no later than 30 days from date of issuance.
- ⦿ If you fail to complete your program of study but have already applied for OPT, you need to immediately notify your DSO for guidance.

OPT

- Students who are on a period of post-completion OPT (not including associate's) in a Science, Technology, Engineering or Math program are eligible to apply for a 17-month extension.
- Students authorized an OPT STEM extension must work for an E-Verify employer in a position directly related to STEM degree.
- Students must provide the I-765, supporting evidence, and the fee.
- Students must provide a letter indicating the job title, proof of duration of position, contact information for student's supervisor, and a description of the work.
- Students must make sure they apply for the extension prior 90-120 days to the end date of their OPT.

OPT

If you file for OPT, yet remain unemployed for 90-days, once your OPT has been approved, you run the risk of being terminated in SEVIS by the DSO or by DHS.

Even after you have been employed and then seek to change employers or lose your job, you will accrue days of unemployment and must report those periods to your school DSO/PDSO. Changes in employment/unemployment must be reported within 10 days to avoid problems with DHS.

- Volunteering will assist you in maintaining your status while you look for a paid OPT position.

TRAVEL

- So, you're going to head to Canada or Mexico or some other country to renew your visa??? Think again!



TRAVEL

Suggested documents that you take with you:

- ⦿ Current signed I-20 for travel (3rd page)
- ⦿ Current passport/visa
- ⦿ Current I-94 card
- ⦿ Change of Status letter from DHS if you changed your status in the U.S. Note: You must apply for and have a new visa placed in your passport that indicates UDC is your new school when you travel home.

If available, also take with you the following documents:

Grade report

Enrollment Verification form (Office of the Registrar)

Current and/or next semester's class schedule



COS – CHANGE OF STATUS

- Make sure that I have your change of status documents
- A#'s (Alien Registration) will be updated



TRANSFERRING OUT



- ⦿ I will need to see a copy of your admission letter to the transfer-out school
- ⦿ Any transfer documents from transfer-out school
- ⦿ UDC transfer form
- ⦿ Make sure you have no outstanding debt to UDC

MAVNI PROGRAM

- ◉ The Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest (MAVNI) program, a program which authorizes certain branches of the military to recruit certain legal aliens with specialized skills, was announced on February 23, 2009. While the MAVNI program was not announced until February of this year, US Secretary of Defense Robert Gates authorized the Army, Navy, and Air Force to implement MAVNI on November 25, 2008. Those branches of the military are authorized to recruit certain legal aliens whose skills are considered to be vital to the national interest. Those holding critical skills – physicians, nurses, and certain experts in language with associated cultural backgrounds – would be eligible.

- ◉ The one-year MAVNI pilot program allows the military to recruit up to 1,000 non-citizens who do not have permanent resident status, but who have been in US legally for at least two years. These individuals must have medical skills or foreign language skills together with cultural expertise that the military is seeking.
- ◉ A foreign national seeking to join the military must be legally present in the US and able to provide a passport, I-94 card, I-797 form, [employment authorization document](#) or other government issued documents proving legal presence in the United States.

Specifically, a foreign national must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- ◉ The applicant must be an Asylee or refugee, in Temporary Protected Status (TPS), or in one of the enumerated nonimmigrant categories (including [E](#), F, [H](#), I, J, [K](#), [L](#), M, [O](#), [P](#), Q, [R](#), S, T, TC, TD, [TN](#), U, or V) at the time of enlistment;
- ◉ The foreign national must have been in valid status in one of the above listed categories for at least two years immediately prior to the enlistment date. However, the two years of presence does not have to be the same category as the one held on the date of enlistment; and
- ◉ A foreign national who may be eligible on the basis of a nonimmigrant category at time of enlistment must not have had any single absence from the United States of more than 90 days during the two year eligibility period.
- ◉ [For more information, visit: http://www.defense.gov/news/MAVNI-Fact-Sheet.pdf](http://www.defense.gov/news/MAVNI-Fact-Sheet.pdf)

QUESTIONS BEFORE YOU GO?

Van Ness - UDC



REMEMBER

- ◉ eongao@udc.edu
- ◉ 202/274-6430
- ◉ Make an appointment on the sign-in sheet located on the bookshelf outside of my door
- ◉ Ms. Tran Vu, Office of Admissions, 274-6158 should be contacted for Admissions' related questions.

