

Dear UCLA International Student,

The Dashew Center would like to inform you of an important development regarding the Curricular Practical Training (CPT) authorization for F-1 students. On August 12, 2026, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) issued a [broadcast message](#) regarding CPT authorizations for F-1 students. On August 24, 2026, ICE issued a follow-up broadcast message, [Guidance for Designated School Officials regarding Curricular Practical Training](#), and provided further clarification.

These messages direct that CPT should be authorized only when practical training is a required component of the degree program for all students pursuing that degree is necessary for degree completion. UCLA recognizes that internships and practical training opportunities are an important part of many students' academic and professional development. However, as we continue to evaluate federal guidance messages and the impact they have with the CPT program at UCLA, updated measures are now needed to ensure ongoing compliance and to safeguard our students and the university community.

Degree-Requirement CPT Remains Available

The Dashew Center will continue processing CPT applications that are part of a formal degree requirement. Degree programs with mandatory internship, practicum, fieldwork, clinical, or similar requirements and applicable term(s) are identified in the official [UCLA General Catalog](#). Students enrolled in these programs may continue to apply for CPT and such applications will be reviewed by the Dashew Center.

Students with Approved CPT Are Not Affected

Students who have already received an approved CPT authorization and were issued a CPT I-20 by the Dashew Center prior to August 12, 2026 are not impacted by this suspension. These students may continue to participate in the employment opportunity listed on their CPT I-20 in accordance with the authorization already granted.

Indefinite Suspension of Course Credit and Academic Department Support Letter-Based CPT Authorizations

Effective immediately and until further notice, the Dashew Center is suspending the review and processing of Course Credit and Academic Department Support Letter-Based CPT Applications submitted on or after August 12, 2026, where the internship or training experience is not an official degree requirement for all students in that degree program. This suspension is intended to minimize potential immigration-related risks for students and the university.

Graduate Students with Dissertation, Thesis Research, or Capstone Plan

We understand that for some graduate students, practical training tied to a dissertation, thesis, capstone plan, or other research component may be recommended by academic departments. SEVP has not provided guidance for universities to authorize CPT for those purposes. Until such guidance is issued by SEVP, CPT applications for fieldwork or internships will not be approved for this purpose unless the published and approved program description in the [UCLA General Catalog](#) reflects this requirement for all students in the program.

Cooperative Agreement Requirement

UCLA is actively evaluating the new CPT guidance and developing processes to support CPT authorization where permitted. Effective immediately, students will be required to submit a cooperative agreement between the academic department and the sponsoring employer with all CPT applications, consistent with SEVP's guidance. The cooperative agreement document may be viewed [here](#)

Next Steps

The Dashew Center is actively consulting with university leadership and closely monitoring developments to assess the long-term impact of the new guidance. We will provide updates as soon as additional information becomes available.

We Are Here to Support You

Again, we recognize that internships and practical training opportunities are an important part of many students' academic and professional development. This decision was made after careful consideration and reflects our commitment to supporting students while navigating a rapidly changing regulatory environment. UCLA values the contributions of our international student community and remains dedicated to helping you achieve your academic goals.

If you have questions regarding your individual situation, please contact the [Dashew Center](#).

Sincerely,

Sam Nahidi
Director

Legal Resources:

- [Laws to Know](#)
- [Attorney List](#)
- [UCLA Student Legal Services](#)

UCLA Case by Case Support, Wellness, and Psychological Support

- [Counseling and Psychological Support \(CAPS\)](#)
- [RISE Center](#)
- [Case Management](#)

A Department of Student Affairs