F-1 STUDENT EMPLOYMENT TIMELINE

30 days- number of days before start date on I-20 that you can arrive/begin working

15 days- number of days transfer students have to report to new school

START DATE ON I-20

1 academic year- must have maintained F-1 status at UG, GR or PhD degree level to be eligible to apply for practical training/ off campus employment (CPT)

Window of time to be approved for CPT. Usually limited to 3 semesters.

90 days- number of days before program end date that you can apply for OPT (also the approximate amount of time it takes USCIS to approve the application, so if you want to start working as soon as you graduate, apply 90 days before!)

Window of time for USCIS to receive an OPT application

END DATE ON I-20 (will be shortened if necessary to reflect you actual program end date when you apply for OPT)

60 days- number of days after program end date that you can apply for OPT. Your application must be received by USCIS no later than day 60 of your grace period. If you apply this late you will not receive a full 12 months of OPT.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY