



## **F-1 / J-1 Employment Directly Related to Degree Guidelines**

*The following information is meant for informational purposes, and is not legal advice. You, the student, are ultimately responsible for justifying/explaining the correlation between your employment and how it directly relates to your degree upon which your work authorization is granted. This resource is designed for F-1 students regarding CPT, OPT, and STEM OPT Extension, and J-1 students regarding AT).*

### **Questions to ask yourself:**

- Are any specific degrees or fields of study required/preferred in the job description or application posting?
- Can you identify any relevant coursework from your major/degree which uses similar language as your job description?
- What tasks do you complete in your job that are listed as a learning outcome from courses you completed for your major?
- What degrees (or fields of experience) do other professionals hold in this field?
- What specific skills did you learn in your program that you would be utilizing in this job?

### **Documentation to support/clarify your degree:**

- Syllabi from major courses you took while completing your degree
- Significant projects or publications you produced while working toward your degree (thesis, dissertation, capstone project, etc)

### **Documentation to support/clarify that the job is directly related to your field of study.**

#### **Keep this documentation for your records:**

- Job description / application posting
- Performance evaluations which discuss specific themes you studied
- Letter from faculty instructor(s)

### **Additional resources:**

- SEVP Policy Guidance (9/27/19)  
<https://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/optDirectlyRelatedGuidance.pdf>