



**UC DAVIS**

Services for International  
Students and Scholars

A part of Global Affairs

# Work Authorizations for International Graduate Students

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# Services for International Students and Scholars (S/SS) | Student Team



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# Agenda

- Work Authorization Basics
- The SISS Philosophy
- The Impact of Major and Degree Level
- Complex Dates and Deadlines
- Case Study Discussion

# Work Authorization Basics



# Work Authorization Basics

- On or Off-campus:
  - International students can work up to 20hrs/week during academic terms and full-time during breaks (no more than 20hrs/week combined)
- On-Campus:
  - F-1 students may work **without** work authorization
  - J-1 students **must have** work authorization



# Work Authorization Basics

- Off-campus F-1:
  - CPT (curricular practical training) and OPT (optional practical training) require work authorization
    - Generally, CPT during academic program, OPT after degree completion
- Off-campus J-1:
  - Academic Training (AT) require work authorization
    - Can be done during and after degree completion



# Curricular Practical Training Eligibility

- In good academic standing
- Pursuing full course of study
- Employment must be related to major
- Required to enroll in at least one "internship" or "research" unit
- Exception: Internship is a degree requirement.



# OPT Eligibility

- Fully enrolled in at least one academic year
- Application must be submitted by deadline ([OPT Timeline](#))
- Must have SISS recommendation on I-20 before submitting application to USCIS
- Do not need a job before applying, but limited unemployment days after approval





# STEM Extension

- [CIP code link](#)
- Can use STEM extension on prior STEM degree if current degree is not STEM



# OPT Packet Review

- Students can schedule an appointment for a packet review with a Tier 1 Advisor
- Schedule after submitting iGlobal OPT I-20 request and before submitting application to USCIS
- Will review I-765, required documentation
- Online application recently launched, majority of students use this option

# The SISS Philosophy



# SISS Philosophy

- We want to be your **campus partner** to assist in student success = **Outreach**
- We believe in **early interventions** are in students' best interest = **Options**
- Our goal is to **best position** international students to access higher-level benefits and opportunities once they leave UC Davis = **Long term**

# The Impact of Major and Degree Level



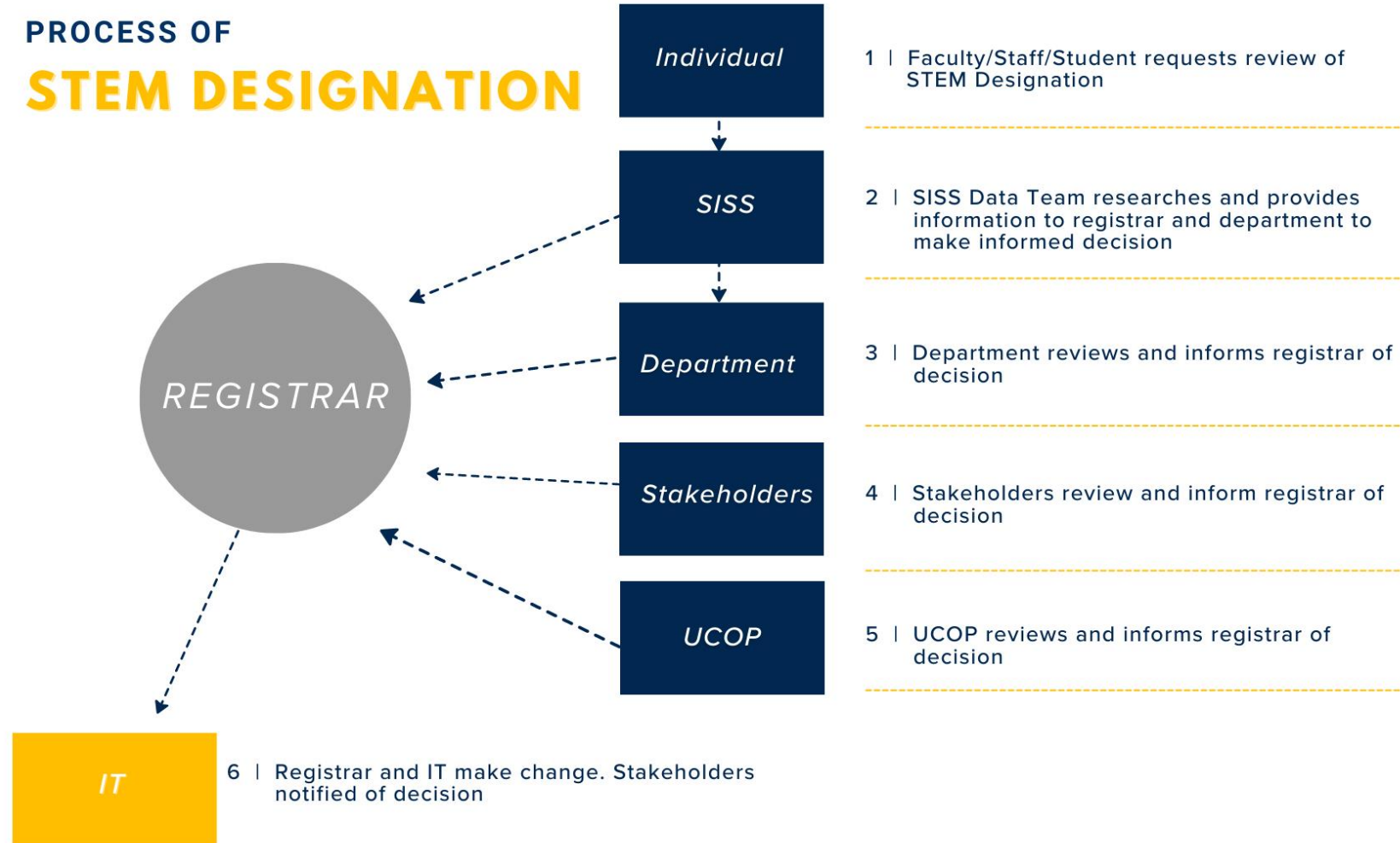
# Graduate Coordinator & Faculty Collaboration for CPT

- CPT e-form requests are routed to the Graduate Coordinator for recommendation
- Graduate Coordinator consult with Academic Advisor or PI when necessary

# Changing non-STEM degree to STEM degree

## PROCESS OF

## STEM DESIGNATION



# Downward Matriculation (PhD to Masters)

- Student enrolled in PhD program, stops pursuing and graduates with Master Degree instead
- Not eligible for Post-Completion OPT based on PhD level
- OPT eligibility for Masters level is determined by date degree requirements are completed. Is student within 60 Day Grace Period?

*Note: J-1 students are not eligible for downward matriculation.  
DS-2019 cannot be updated.*







# Downward Matriculation (continued)

## Student A:

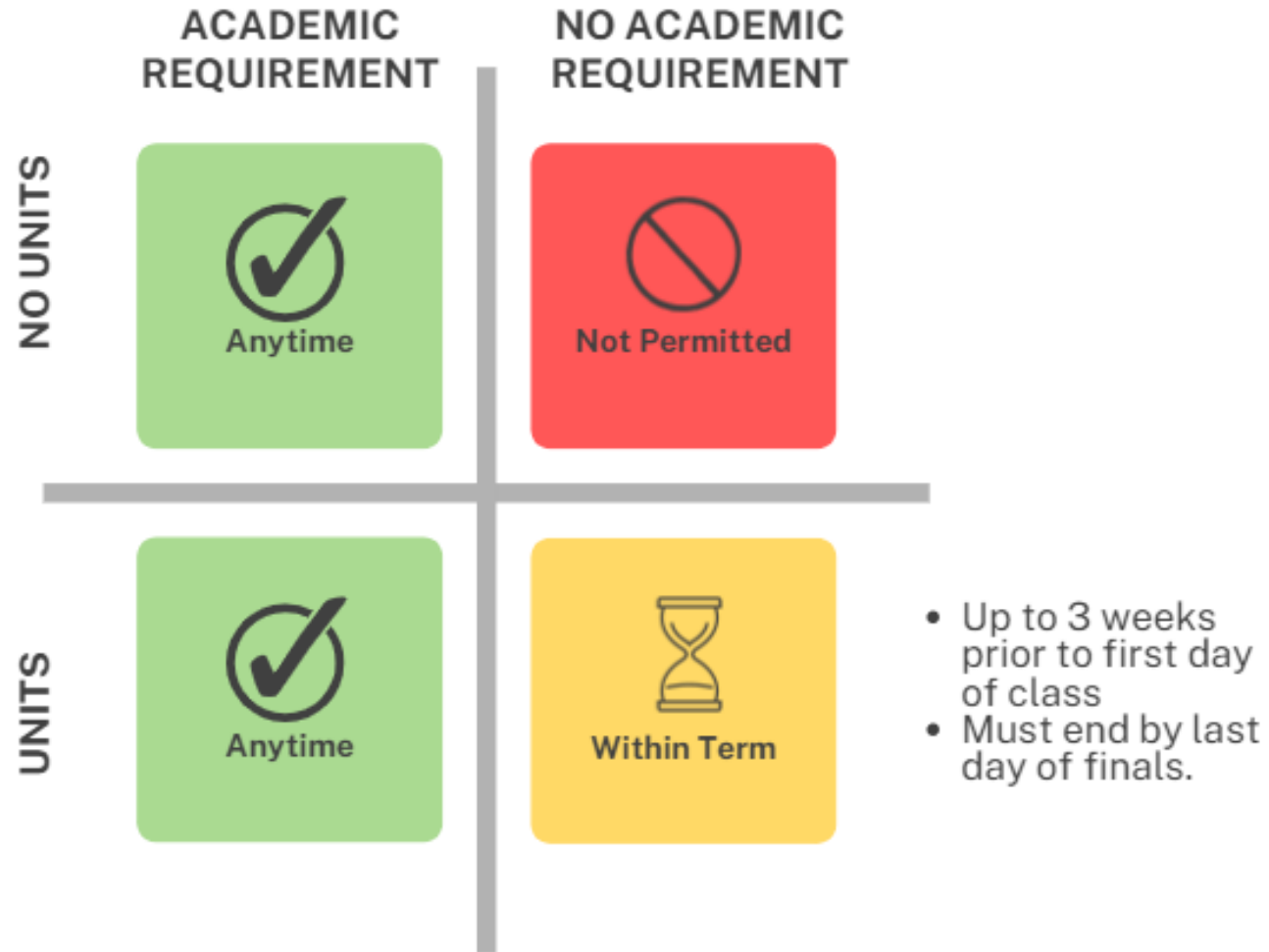
- Begins studying at PhD level in September 2020
- Master degree awarded on *March 18, 2022*
- Student stops pursuing PhD and notifies SISS on *May 10, 2022*
- SISS updates I-20 to reflect master degree program
- **Student is within 60-Day Grace Period and eligible for OPT**

## Student B:

- Same as above EXCEPT student stops pursuing PhD and notifies SISS on *August 20, 2022*
- Student is **not** within 60-Day Grace Period of Master Degree. Student must depart U.S. or transfer to another school/program.

# Complex Dates and Deadlines

# CPT during term and "shoulder season"





# On/off-campus work in Final Term

- On-campus: Graduate students may use up until the last day of the month of the term to complete work
- Off campus: CPT for both continuing and students in their final term must end employment prior to the last day of finals of any given term. Continuing students may continue employment in between terms by registering for the appropriate unit for the following term



# Advancing to candidacy & full-time CPT during academic year

Graduate students who have advanced to candidacy may be authorized for full-time CPT **during an academic term** under the following conditions:

- Registered in 12 research units (**cannot be in Filing Fee status**)
- Graduate Coordinator indicates in iGlobal that full-time employment is a requirement toward degree completion
- Full-time CPT is defined as employment of more than 20 hours per week.



# OPT Application & Filing Fee (current)

- F-1 Regulations indicate that a student is eligible for OPT "*after completion of all course requirements (excluding thesis or equivalent)*".
- A student on Filing Fee may apply for OPT based on the quarter on Filing Fee or the quarter prior.

## Example: Filing Fee in Winter 2023

- Option 1: Program end date = December 31, 2022
- Option 2: Program end date = March 31, 2023
- Apply for OPT no more than 90 days prior and 60 days after program end date.



# OPT Application & Filing Fee (continued)

- Option for *customized program end date* **IF** student has job offer with an expected start date during the term.
- Program end date adjusted to 1 day prior to employment start date
- Job offer letter would be a required document when applying for OPT.
- If the student is considering this, please have them discuss their SISS advisor.

## Example: Filing Fee in Winter 2023

- Student receives job offer with expected start date of February 1, 2023
- Program end date = January 31, 2023
- May apply for OPT up to 90 days prior



# OPT Application & Filing Fee Changes Winter 2023

- Being on Filing Fee does not affect a student's immigration status
- If Filing Fee is not approved by the 8<sup>th</sup> week, student will be automatically enrolled in 12 units of research. This will not cause an issue
- Graduate Students who have an approved OPT application can begin their OPT during their Filing Fee quarter.





# OPT Application & Filing Fee (continued)

***Students must always report that they are on  
filing fee in iGlobal***

# Case Study Discussion

# Case Studies

1. Review case with your table (SISS facilitator can read to the group)
2. Discuss your options in advising the student (take timing into consideration)
3. Consider if, when, and how you may engage SISS
4. Who would you contact at SISS?
5. Tell each other at your table how this may change your advising



# Questions to ask yourself

- Is the student working on campus? How might this impact additional work authorizations?
- When did a PhD student finish their Master's degree?
- Is the internship required? Are units required? What term is the student in?
- Has the student advanced to candidacy?
- If the student is requesting full-time employment, why is it necessary for the student to be employed full-time rather than part-time to meet graduation requirements?



# How Does SISS Help You?

- Publish our termination deadlines & work authorization workshop dates to the graduate coordinator list serve prior to the beginning of each term
- Organize quarterly meetings to address specific issues or answer questions
- Come to you, your offices, meet with you and groups of students who have questions
- Questions or suggestions? Email: [siss@ucdavis.edu](mailto:siss@ucdavis.edu) Subject: AGS



# Questions?

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