

Tompkins Cortland Community College
Global Initiative Office, Room 248

INFORMATION FOR DEPARTING STUDENTS

Many of you will be moving onto a new experience next semester, either because you are graduating, transferring to another college, or have applied for OPT. As you make your post-graduation plans, there are some important immigration deadlines and information that you need to know.

If your current I-20 has an end date and is valid through next semester and you are registered for Summer or Fall classes, please disregard this email.

OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING (OPT):

If you would like to get work experience in your major field of study after graduation, you may apply for up to 12 months of Optional Practical Training employment authorization from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Applications are available in our office now or on our website. You do not have to have a job offer to apply for OPT!

The deadline for filing your OPT application is within 60 days of your program completion. We recommend you apply at the beginning of your LAST semester, at least three months before you graduate! If you have travel plans, it is advised that you have your OPT authorized and obtain a job offer before departing the U.S. The later you file your application, the more likely you will lose some of your 12-month benefit.

It presently takes three to four months to get your OPT authorized by USCIS. You can still apply for OPT now if you want to start working after graduation. Please set up an appointment with Maria Barrero. meb@tompkinscortland.edu

TRANSFER OUT OR PROGRAM EXTENSION:

If you are planning to begin a new program of study at another school in the U.S., you must request “Transfer Out” request from the Global Initiatives Office (room 248) no later than **60 days after graduation**.

If you are intending on extending your time here at TC3 to complete a second degree, or your original I-20 completion date was not sufficient to complete your current degree, **you MUST complete an “Extension Request” with the Global Initiatives Office (room 248) within 60 days of your CURRENT I-20’s end date (first page, first column).**

YOUR F-1 STUDENT STATUS OFFICIALLY ENDS 60 DAYS AFTER GRADUATION unless you have either:
applied for OPT or Transfer Out, obtained a new form I-20 from us for an Extension of Program, or departed the U.S.

If you are leaving TC3, goodbye, take care, we will miss you and good luck with all your future endeavors.