

Post-Completion Optional Practical Training (OPT) Application Timeline Overview

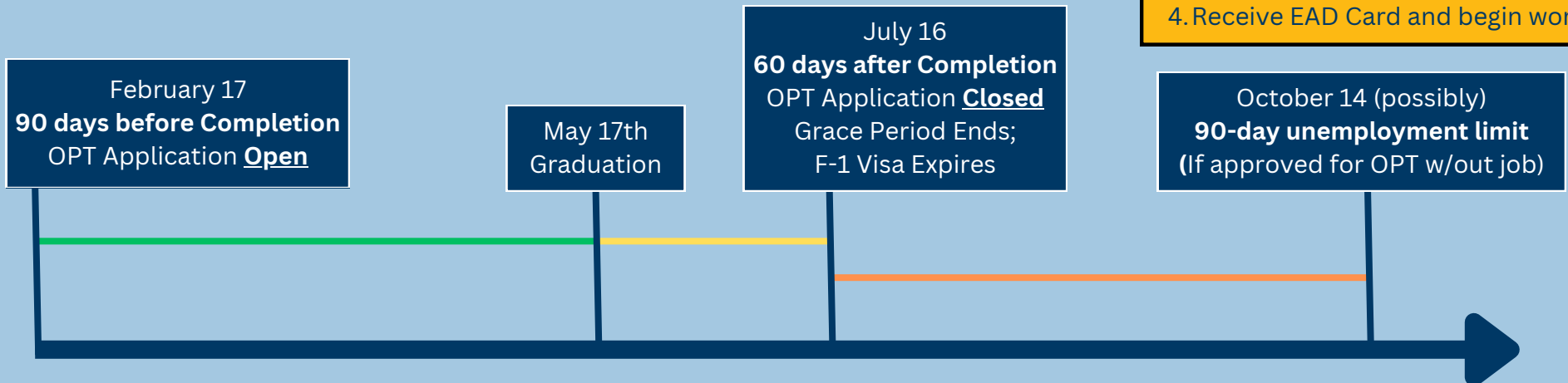


Basic Considerations

- Successful application for OPT will result in an Employment Authorization Document (EAD), allowing F-1 students to work in the U.S. under specific conditions
 - **Most Important Condition:** 12-month limit; 24-month extension eligible for STEM programs of study
- OPT must be approved by USCIS before officially engaging in work. An EAD Card is a requirement to work legally in the U.S.
- 90 days of unemployment are permitted for students approved for Post-Completion OPT
- \$410 Filing Fee (nonrefundable if application is denied)

Basic Timeline

1. **RWU International Services:** Request OPT in SEVIS
2. **Student:** Complete OPT Application and submit to USCIS
3. Wait for approval, denial, or request for information (typically 30-90 days)
 - USCIS will approve **requested start date** or, if approved after this date has passed, provide **actual start date**
4. Receive EAD Card and begin work



What is the 90-Day Unemployment Rule?

- Students engaged in Post-Completion OPT **must** have employment registered in SEVIS for the duration of their work authorization.
 - Changes to employment status **must** be reported to RWU International Student Services.
- Any days spent without employment registered in SEVIS will be recorded as days spent unemployed.
 - When the 90 day limit is reached, F-1 visa status will be **terminated**.
- Use of the 90 days is permitted immediately after the OPT start date, which allows for additional time for students unable to find a position in time for the OPT authorization start.



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services