

Announcements Page:

September 28, 2026

New Curricular Practical Training RESTRICTIONS beginning now

The Department of Homeland Security issued broadcast messages to schools in August that reinterpret CPT regulations. Since these are changes in a 30+ year interpretation without a corresponding regulatory change, we expect that there will be litigation that may eventually reverse implementation of this new regulatory interpretation. However, for the time being we have been advised by the UNM Office of University Counsel that we should restrict CPT as stated in these memos until this interpretation is changed.

Who will be authorized for CPT under the new interpretation?

Students in programs with required internships or practicums listed in official program materials will continue to be authorized as will students who are in thesis or dissertation degrees where the CPT authorization is required to complete the thesis or dissertation.

What is the new process for CPT authorization?

If your program requires an internship:

Talk to your program staff about what enrollment you need to complete this requirement. In some cases, you will need to enroll in a department practicum course and will therefore need the [Non-Coop CPT](#) form. If you have a requirement but no practicum course, you will need to enroll in the [CPT via Coop](#) and will ALSO need a letter from your department faculty stating that you are completing required internship hours.

If you will be collecting data for your thesis or dissertation:

You will need to enroll in the [Coop course](#) to be authorized for CPT and will ALSO need a letter from your department faculty stating that the activities you are engaged in will be used directly in your thesis or dissertation and that you cannot complete that requirement without being authorized for CPT for that organization.

We regret having to bring you this news and will let you know as soon as there are any changes.

Respectfully,

Linda Melville, Director International Student and Scholar Services