

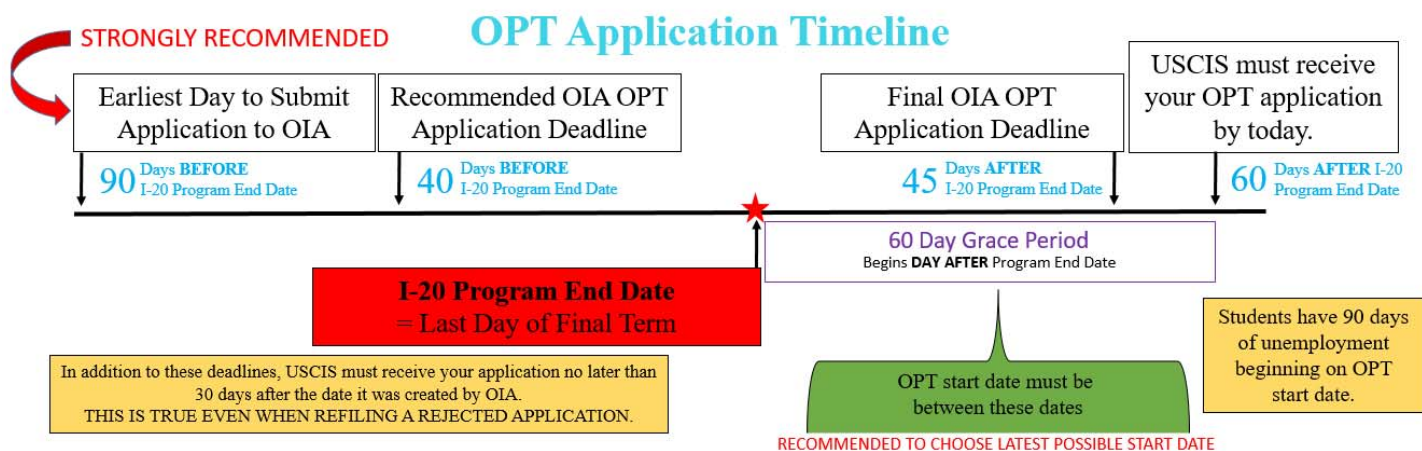


## 2020-21 OPT Application Deadlines, Start Dates & Unemployment Dates

Final Term of Study	Program End Date (Confirm with academic program. Common program end dates in BLUE.)	OIA Application Timelines			Grace Period & OPT Start Dates		90 Days of Unemployment	
		Earliest Date to Apply [Strongly Recommended]	Latest Suggested Application Deadline	Final Application Deadline	Grace Period Begins + Earliest OPT Start Date	Grace Period Ends + Last Possible OPT Start Date [Recommended]	90 Day Deadline if Start Date = EARLIEST OPT START DATE	90 Day Deadline if Start Date = LATEST OPT START DATE
Summer 2020	6/14/2020	3/16/2020	4/30/2020	7/30/2020	6/15/2020	8/14/2020	9/12/2020	11/11/2020
	6/21/2020	3/23/2020	5/7/2020	8/6/2020	6/22/2020	8/21/2020	9/19/2020	11/18/2020
	8/2/2020	5/4/2020	6/18/2020	9/17/2020	8/3/2020	10/2/2020	10/31/2020	12/30/2020
	8/9/2020	5/11/2020	6/25/2020	9/24/2020	8/10/2020	10/9/2020	11/7/2020	1/6/2021
	8/16/2020	5/18/2020	7/2/2020	10/1/2020	8/17/2020	10/16/2020	11/14/2020	1/13/2021
	8/23/2020	5/25/2020	7/9/2020	10/8/2020	8/24/2020	10/23/2020	11/21/2020	1/20/2021
	8/30/2020	6/1/2020	7/16/2020	10/15/2020	8/31/2020	10/30/2020	11/28/2020	1/27/2021
	9/20/2020	6/22/2020	8/6/2020	11/5/2020	9/21/2020	11/20/2020	12/19/2020	2/17/2021
Fall 2020	9/27/2020	6/29/2020	8/13/2020	11/12/2020	9/28/2020	11/27/2020	12/26/2020	2/24/2021
	10/4/2020	7/6/2020	8/20/2020	11/19/2020	10/5/2020	12/4/2020	1/2/2021	3/3/2021
	10/11/2020	7/13/2020	8/27/2020	11/26/2020	10/12/2020	12/11/2020	1/9/2021	3/10/2021
	11/1/2020	8/3/2020	9/17/2020	12/17/2020	11/2/2020	1/1/2021	1/30/2021	3/31/2021
	11/8/2020	8/10/2020	9/24/2020	12/24/2020	11/9/2020	1/8/2021	2/6/2021	4/7/2021
	11/15/2020	8/17/2020	10/1/2020	12/31/2020	11/16/2020	1/15/2021	2/13/2021	4/14/2021
	11/22/2020	8/24/2020	10/8/2020	1/7/2021	11/23/2020	1/22/2021	2/20/2021	4/21/2021
	11/29/2020	8/31/2020	10/15/2020	1/14/2021	11/30/2020	1/29/2021	2/27/2021	4/28/2021
	12/6/2020	9/7/2020	10/22/2020	1/21/2021	12/7/2020	2/5/2021	3/6/2021	5/5/2021
	12/13/2020	9/14/2020	10/29/2020	1/28/2021	12/14/2020	2/12/2021	3/13/2021	5/12/2021
	12/20/2020	9/21/2020	11/5/2020	2/4/2021	12/21/2020	2/19/2021	3/20/2021	5/19/2021
	12/27/2020	9/28/2020	11/12/2020	2/11/2021	12/28/2020	2/26/2021	3/27/2021	5/26/2021
Winter 2021	12/31/2020	10/2/2020	11/16/2020	2/15/2021	1/1/2021	3/2/2021	3/31/2021	5/30/2021
	2/14/2021	11/16/2020	12/31/2020	4/1/2021	2/15/2021	4/16/2021	5/15/2021	7/14/2021
	2/28/2021	11/30/2020	1/14/2021	4/15/2021	3/1/2021	4/30/2021	5/29/2021	7/28/2021
	3/14/2021	12/14/2020	1/28/2021	4/29/2021	3/15/2021	5/14/2021	6/12/2021	8/11/2021
	3/28/2021	12/28/2020	2/11/2021	5/13/2021	3/29/2021	5/28/2021	6/26/2021	8/25/2021
	4/4/2021	1/4/2021	2/18/2021	5/20/2021	4/5/2021	6/4/2021	7/3/2021	9/1/2021
	4/18/2021	1/18/2021	3/4/2021	6/3/2021	4/19/2021	6/18/2021	7/17/2021	9/15/2021
	4/25/2021	1/25/2021	3/11/2021	6/10/2021	4/26/2021	6/25/2021	7/24/2021	9/22/2021
	5/2/2021	2/1/2021	3/18/2021	6/17/2021	5/3/2021	7/2/2021	7/31/2021	9/29/2021
	5/9/2021	2/8/2021	3/25/2021	6/24/2021	5/10/2021	7/9/2021	8/7/2021	10/6/2021
	5/16/2021	2/15/2021	4/1/2021	7/1/2021	5/17/2021	7/16/2021	8/14/2021	10/13/2021
	5/23/2021	2/22/2021	4/8/2021	7/8/2021	5/24/2021	7/23/2021	8/21/2021	10/20/2021
Summer 2021	6/13/2021	3/15/2021	4/29/2021	7/29/2021	6/14/2021	8/13/2021	9/11/2021	11/10/2021
	6/27/2021	3/29/2021	5/13/2021	8/12/2021	6/28/2021	8/27/2021	9/25/2021	11/24/2021
	5/30/2021	3/1/2021	4/15/2021	7/15/2021	5/31/2021	7/30/2021	8/28/2021	10/27/2021
	6/20/2021	3/22/2021	5/6/2021	8/5/2021	6/21/2021	8/20/2021	9/18/2021	11/17/2021
	6/27/2021	3/29/2021	5/13/2021	8/12/2021	6/28/2021	8/27/2021	9/25/2021	11/24/2021
	7/4/2021	4/5/2021	5/20/2021	8/19/2021	7/5/2021	9/3/2021	10/2/2021	12/1/2021
	7/18/2021	4/19/2021	6/3/2021	9/2/2021	7/19/2021	9/17/2021	10/16/2021	12/15/2021
	7/25/2021	4/26/2021	6/10/2021	9/9/2021	7/26/2021	9/24/2021	10/23/2021	12/22/2021
	8/1/2021	5/3/2021	6/17/2021	9/16/2021	8/2/2021	10/1/2021	10/30/2021	12/29/2021
	8/8/2021	5/10/2021	6/24/2021	9/23/2021	8/9/2021	10/8/2021	11/6/2021	1/5/2022
	8/15/2021	5/17/2021	7/1/2021	9/30/2021	8/16/2021	10/15/2021	11/13/2021	1/12/2022

This chart has been created based on USCIS I-765 processing times as of 9/1/20. OIA has no control over USCIS processing times. This chart is provided as a resource only and does not constitute legal advice. Students are always recommended to seek the advice of an experienced immigration attorney for case-specific information.

- **Final Term of Study** = The term in which you will complete your NSU academic program.
- **Program End Date** = This is the last day of the term in which you will complete your NSU academic program. This date must be confirmed by your academic department / advisor. This is NOT your graduation/commencement.
- **Earliest Date to Apply** = 90 days prior to program end date. This is the earliest date your OPT packet will be accepted by OIA. It is strongly recommended that you apply as close to this date as possible.
- **Latest Suggested Application Deadline** = 45 days prior to program end date. This allows for the I-765 to be received by USCIS with 90 days for processing before the end of the grace period, after a 15 day estimate for OIA processing and student shipping. Applying after this deadline is likely to result in a loss of some of your 12 months of OPT eligibility.
- **Final Application Deadline** = 15 days prior to grace period end to allow for OIA processing and student shipping for packet to be received by USCIS by final day of grace period.
- **Grace Period Begins + Earliest OPT Start Date** = 60 day grace period begins day after program end date. Based on current USCIS processing times, it is not recommended that students select the earliest OPT start date.
- **Grace Period Ends + Latest OPT Start Date** = Grace period ends 60 days after program end date. Based on current USCIS processing times, it is recommended that students select the latest OPT start date. Note that students are NOT able to begin OPT employment prior to OPT start date, even if OPT approved and FAD card



### PROGRAM END DATES & APPLICATION TIMELINES

**Program End Date:** This is the last date of the term in which you will finish all requirements for your degree. Students are NOT able to extend their program end date to account for commencement or external licensure exams that are not required for their degree programs. This date should be listed on the front page of your I-20.

**Earliest Day to Submit Application to OIA:** The earliest OIA may create an OPT-endorsed I-20 for your I-765 application is 90 days before your program end date. It is recommended that you apply as early as possible. *Due to current USCIS processing times, students are strongly recommended to apply as close to this date as possible.*

**Recommended OIA OPT Application Deadline:** Due to processing times, this is the date by when OIA recommends you submit your OPT application. Students who do not submit their OPT applications by this date risk losing some of their 365 days of work authorization due to delayed processing.

**Final OIA OPT Application Deadline:** OIA will not accept OPT applications from students after this date as we are unable to process the application time for it to be mailed by the student to USCIS by the end of the grace period. Students who fail to submit their complete OPT applications to the Office of International Affairs by this date will lose their opportunity for OPT.

**Additional Reminder:** USCIS must receive your I-765 application packet within 30 days of the date your OPT-endorsed I-20 was created within the Office of International Affairs. This is true even when USCIS has requested a student refile their application due to incomplete/inaccurate filings!

### GRACE PERIODS & OPT START DATES

F-1 students have a 60-day grace period after completing their program in the United States. The grace period begins the day after the program end date, as listed on page one of a student's I-20.

**60 Day Grace Period Begins / Earliest OPT Start Date:** For students who ARE applying for OPT, your first day of your 60 day grace period is the earliest OPT start date you may request. During your grace period you are not permitted to work until you have received your EAD card AND the EAD start date has arrived.

**60 Day Grace Period Ends / Latest OPT Start Date:** Your last day of your 60 day grace period is the latest OPT start date you may request. During your grace period you are not permitted to work until you have received your EAD card AND the EAD start date has arrived. *Due to current USCIS processing times, students are strongly recommended to choose the latest possible start date.*

### 90 DAYS OF UNEMPLOYMENT

Students are permitted up to 90 days of unemployment during their OPT authorization. This 90 days is accrued during the entire OPT authorization so it is not recommended that students utilize their full 90 days at the beginning as they will have no additional time to job search should their unemployment unexpectedly terminate.

Days of unemployment are tracked in SEVIS based on employment as reported by the student. Students who fail to update their employment through the SEVP Portal and/or the Office of International Affairs will not have their employment tracked and will fall out of status if more than 90 days of unemployment is accrued. Students begin accruing unlawful presence on their 91<sup>st</sup> day of unemployment while on OPT.