

OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING & ECONOMIC HARDSHIP
APPLICATIONS: NEW FORM I-765 IN USE

February 27, 2007

This message is for F-1 students who are applying for Optional Practical Training (OPT) or Economic Hardship now. If you do not plan to apply for any of these F-1 benefits this semester, you do not need to read this message.

The U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services recently updated Form I-765, which is the form F-1 students fill out to apply for OPT and Economic Hardship. Beginning on March 30, 2007, the USCIS will no longer accept the old form.

We have updated Form I-765 on our website and in our OPT and Economic Hardship handouts. However, we are concerned that some students may have old copies of our handouts or may have downloaded Form I-765 from our website before it was updated.

Before you mail your OPT or Economic Hardship application, please check your Form I-765 to be sure it is the correct form. Does it say “Expires 8/31/2008” in the top right corner? If so, you have the correct form. If not, you need to download the new form from <http://wings.buffalo.edu/intlservices/f1.html>.

If you have any questions concerning applying for OPT or Economic Hardship, please visit our office in Talbert Hall 210, North Campus. We will also offer a workshop on “F-1 Employment Authorization: Curricular & Optional Practical Training” on Wednesday, March 7 from 5:00-6:15 in Capen Hall 31, North Campus.