OPT Sample Timeline

*Based on May 20, 2015 graduation date

**IMPORTANT**
You MUST have Employment Authorization Document in hand before beginning any employment!

- **Earliest date to apply:** 90 days prior to program completion
- **Program completion**
- **OPT Starts on date specified on application, regardless of employment status**
- **During 12-months of OPT, unemployment aggregate cannot exceed 90 days; STEM students may be eligible for an extension of 17 months**
- **OPT ends; 60-day grace period starts**
- **Grace period ends**

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3-Step OPT Application
1. Obtain a recommendation from ISSO on new I-20
2. Send an application and $380 fee to USCIS
3. USCIS will process and send student an Employment Authorization Document

www.tinyurl.com/issopreOPT

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3 Pieces of Mail from USCIS
1. Receipt Notice (within 2-4 weeks)
2. Approval Notice (within 6-12 weeks)

Allow up to 90 days for processing by USCIS