OPT Sample Timeline

*Based on May 20, 2015 graduation date

IMPORTANT

You MUST have Employment Authorization Document in hand before beginning any employment! During 12-months of OPT, unemployment aggregate cannot exceed **OPT** Starts on date Earliest date 90 days; STEM students OPT ends; specified on application, to apply: 90 may be eligible for an regardless of 60-day days prior to extension of 17 months Grace grace period employment status program period **Program** starts completion ends completion Feb 18, 2018 May 31, 2015 July 19, 2015 May 31, 2016 July 30, 2016 May 20, 2015 3-Step OPT Application 3 Pieces of Mail from USCIS Start Final application deadline: 60 days after date of 1. Obtain a recommendation from 1. Receipt Notice (within 2-4 weeks) OPT program completion; ISSO on new I-20 Approval Notice (within 6-12 weeks) USCIS must receive must fall 2. Send an application and \$380 fee your application no into this **Employment Authorization Document** to USCIS 60-day later than 60 days after Card (by 12 weeks) window program completion 3. USCIS will process and send Allow up to 90 days for processing student an Employment by USCIS **Authorization Document**

www.tinyurl.com/issoPreOPT