Severe Economic Hardship (SEH) Employment
(for F-1 Students)

Under certain circumstances, F-1 students who have been lawfully enrolled for one full academic year can apply for Severe Economic Hardship (SEH) Employment, which will allow them to work off-campus for no more than 20 hours a week while school is in session (during the Fall or Spring semesters). A job offer is NOT needed to apply for SEH employment, and the work does NOT need to be related to the student’s major field of study.

The following circumstances MUST exist before a student can apply for Severe Economic Hardship Employment:

► The student MUST have been in F-1 status for at least one full academic year.
► The student MUST be able to prove that the employment is necessary due to severe economic hardship caused by circumstances beyond his/her control which arose after the F-1 status was obtained (such circumstances would include an economic crisis in the student’s home country).
► The student MUST be able to prove why other employment (such as on-campus employment) is unavailable or insufficient.

In order to apply for Severe Economic Hardship Employment, the student must:

- Document the circumstances that caused the economic need.
- Explain why on-campus employment options are unavailable or insufficient.
- Complete Form I-765 (Application for Employment Authorization), using the code: “(c) (3) (iii)” for item #16 on the form. The I-765 can be obtained here: [http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis](http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis) (Click on the “Immigration Forms” tab.)
- Obtain 2 passport style photos.
- Prepare a bank check or money order made payable to “USCIS”. The cost is $340.
- Make an appointment for the Office of International Student Services (OISS) to process your application (352-4130).
- Bring all of the items listed above AND your passport, I-94 card, and all I-20s you ever received with you to the appointment. (Without all of these items, your application cannot be processed by the OISS.)