



## SAMPLE EXPLANATIONS OF A DIRECT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OPT EMPLOYMENT AND MAJOR AREA OF STUDY

OPT and STEM OPT regulations require the establishment of a direct relationship between practical training employment and a student's degree level and primary major area of study as shown on your I-20. Employment cannot be based on concentrations or minors. The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) has published sample explanations of this direct relationship. The SEVP samples do not provide examples for every academic program, but they do serve as templates for writing your own complete explanation.

When you report employment [in your SEVP portal](#), you will be asked to explain how your employment directly relates to your DePaul degree level and major area of study. The examples below provide templates for writing your own explanation.

### Sample Explanations of a Direct Relationship

- Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering:** I work full time as an Electrical Engineer at ABC Corp., a government contractor. In my job, I analyze client requirements for electrical systems and provide them with cost estimates of such systems. My work requires understanding of electrical circuit theory, which I studied in-depth at the University of ABC.
- Bachelor's degree in Business:** I work full time as a Loan Officer at a mortgage company, Happy Homes, where I meet with clients and evaluate, authorize and recommend approval of loan applications. On a daily basis, I use the knowledge I gained in my credit analysis, sales and marketing classes that I took as part of my major program of study.
- Master's degree in Music:** I am working at a hospital playing the harp in patient rooms. I also conduct hands-on harp beginner workshops for long-term patients. On average, I work at the hospital 35 hours a week. My duties directly utilize the skills and knowledge I acquired from my coursework and degree in music therapy.
- PhD in Computer Science:** I am employed as a Computer and Information Research Scientist at ABC Research Institute. I work as part of a team of scientists and engineers that designs experiments to test the operation of various software systems. My work builds on research in complex algorithms and machine learning, which I studied as part of my dissertation.
- Master's degree in Kinesiology:** I am working 25 hours a week in a health food store as a consultant for Self-Made Inc., designing and teaching exercise classes that are incorporated into a customer's overall nutrition and exercise plan. My designs and customer instruction draw upon my studies and classwork in exercise therapy and physical reconditioning.

Sample explanations taken from: <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/optDirectlyRelatedGuidance.pdf>

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