OVERVIEW OF OFF-CAMPUS WORK OPTIONS FOR F-1 STUDENTS
For more information, go to: http://www.iss.ku.edu/

1) Optional Practical Training
   - Must be in F-1 status and have been enrolled full time for two semesters (Fall & Spring) before
     the OPT can start
   - Work must be directly related to major
   - Limited to 12 months total per higher degree level
   - Can be part time (up to 20 hours per week) or full time, but each requires a separate application
     o Can only be part time during academic semester (and must remain enrolled full time)
     o Can be part time or full time during official school breaks
     o Can be part time or full time once required course work is finished for Masters or Ph.D. while working
       on thesis, dissertation or equivalent
     o Can only be full time after completion of degree
     o If used part-time, time is deducted at half the full-time rate (i.e. four months part time = two months
       full time)
   - Does not require a job offer to apply
   - Application is made to the U.S. government (after receiving recommendation from ISS)
   - Processing time varies; 2-3 months usually
   - $410 application fee

2) Curricular Practical Training
   - Must be in F-1 status and have been enrolled full time for two semesters (Fall & Spring) before
     the CPT can start
   - Work must be required or an integral part of program and directly related to major
   - Pre-completion of degree only
   - Academic credit MUST be received for the employment experience and the course MUST count
     toward degree requirements
   - Employment authorization usually cannot extend beyond the end of the academic term for which
     credit is received
   - Must remain enrolled full time during Fall & Spring semesters
   - Can be part time (up to 20 hours per week) or full time (more than 20 hours per week)
   - No time limit; however, if used 12 months full-time, optional practical training is forfeited
   - Employment is employer specific (i.e. must have a job offer to apply)
   - Application is made to ISS, Strong Hall, Room 2
   - The authorization process is usually 30-60 minutes; however, it is strongly recommended that you
     apply at least 1-2 weeks in advance because it must meet strict eligibility requirements
   - No application fee

3) Severe Economic Hardship
   - Must have been in F-1 status two semesters (Fall & Spring) before the work authorization can
     begin
   - Must be able to demonstrate severe economic hardship caused by unforeseen circumstances (must
     show that money on I-20 is not available for reasons beyond student’s control)
   - Is granted one year maximum at a time; can apply to extend
   - Can work anywhere in U.S., but restricted to 20 hours per week while school is in session
   - Application is made to the U.S. government
   - $410 application fee
   - Processing time varies; recommended to apply 4 months before requested start date