



March 2024 NEWS

Spring Break – What’s Open On-Campus March 11 -17

We hope that you have big plans for Spring Break! This traditional university “holiday” gives students an opportunity to travel, volunteer, or relax. If you will remain in the Tampa Bay area, check out this [article](#) on fun things to do right here!

While the university does not close during the break, note the following changes in open hours:

- Tampa Campus Library - <https://lib.usf.edu/about/libraries-hours/> Open: Mon-Fri 8am to 6pm
- Marshal Student Center – <https://www.usf.edu/student-affairs/msc/visit-the-msc/building-hours.aspx> Open: Mon-Fri 7am to 6pm; Closed: Sunday March 10th
- Campus Dining – <https://usf.campusdish.com/> NOTE: several locations closed. Locations open include The Hub, The Corner Market, Argos BullsXpress, The Well, Central Market, 813 Quick Eats, Panera Bread, Chick-fil-A, Starbucks, and Einstein Bros. Bagels

Most student service offices are open for normal business hours. This includes the Office of International Services. Our daily virtual drop in and walk in hours remain the same during the break!

Travel Plans

If you are planning to travel outside the United States for Spring Break or during the summer, check your I-20 for a valid travel signature. Signatures are valid for one year from the date of the signature. If you need a new one, please complete the Travel Signature eform in iStart.

USCIS Premium Processing Fee Hike in Effect from February 26, 2024

Premium processing is an optional service offered by USCIS to expedite the processing time of certain petitions. The premium processing fee for OPT and STEM OPT petitions increased from \$1500 to \$1685 and the premium processing fee for change of status in the US to F-1, F-2, J-1, or J-2 increased from \$1750 to \$1965.

USCIS Petition Filing Fee Changes Beginning April 1, 2024

On April 1, 2024, USCIS is changing fees for several of their petitions. The new fees provide discounts for online filing. USF recommends online filing for OPT and STEM OPT. The OPT and STEM OPT filing fee will increase by \$60 from \$410 to \$470. Students who are eligible to file for OPT based on their Spring 2024 graduation will need to file before April 1 to take advantage of the current filing fees. For students changing status in the US to F-1, F-2, J-1, or J-2, the online filing fee will increase by \$50 from \$370 to \$420. The paper filing fee will increase by \$100 from \$370 to \$470.

OPT and CPT Workshops

- **Want to learn how to add an internship or job experience to your in-class learning?** Join our team of advisors for an in-person workshop!! They will discuss how to apply for practical training opportunities. Review the work permission used for internships called Curricular Practical Training (CPT) and the work permission used after graduation called Optional Practical Training (OPT). Come to Marshall Student Center Room 4200 on **Wednesday March 6: 4-6pm**. Register at <https://cmlink.me/2k5/r1947917>. This event is sponsored by USF Center for Career & Professional Development
- **Are you interested in applying for Optional Practical Training, or OPT?** Join our OPT advisors for a virtual Question and Answer session via Teams on **Friday, March 8: 10-11am**. This is an interactive session. Bring well-developed questions and concerns about OPT and the advisors will happily advise. Students should review the [OPT information on the OIS website](#) prior to attending. Register via BullsConnect: <https://cmlink.me/2k5/r1947786>
- **Are you interested in applying for Curricular Practical Training, or CPT, during Summer 2024?** Join our CPT advisors for a Virtual Question and Answer session via Teams on **Tuesday, March 19, 10-10:30am**. This is an interactive session. Students must review the [CPT information on the OIS website](#) prior to attending. *Note: If you are planning to do an internship in the summer, the best time to start the process in iStart is around mid-March.* Register via BullsConnect: <https://cmlink.me/2k5/r1947791>

New Payroll Software 'Calculus'

USF Payroll is implementing a new software called Calculus and it is part of the Sprintax software suit. YES, that is the same company that we recommend you use to file your taxes! Calculus is the backend product and is used for applying correct taxes to foreign national employees and for the production of W-4, W-8, and 1042-S tax forms.

If you were employed at USF or had a taxable scholarship, you may have received an email asking you to sign up for 'Calculus'. Signing up allows payroll to be sure to apply tax treaties and withhold properly. NOTE: If you used Sprintax to file taxes, you will want to use the same login for Calculus.

If you have questions about the payroll process of withholding taxes, send an email to UCO_Payroll_NRAIC@usf.edu.

Filing Taxes

If you missed it, it's time to gather your documents together and file taxes for 2023. Our office sent students an email with the link to Sprintax Returns so you can file with the USF Discount (filing is free for most students). If you didn't get the email contact our Student Tax Intern at oistaxquestions@usf.edu. If you need support using Sprintax Returns, please come to BEH 255 on Tuesdays from 2pm to 4pm or Fridays from 10am to 12 pm each week until April 15 for assistance sessions. There is no need to sign up to attend.

Remember to wait until you have ALL of your documents to file. If you were employed, you will have a W-2 from each employer. If you received a taxable scholarship from USF, you will receive a 1042-S. USF Payroll should send these out this week. Students with other forms of reportable income, such as interest from a bank account, will receive 1099 forms. If you receive a 1098-T form, please ignore it. This form applies to tax residents only and does not apply to F1 students!

Foreign Influence and Foreign Principal Screening

[House Bill 7017](#) was passed and signed into law during the 2021 Florida legislative session. With regard to employment at state universities, the law requires additional scrutiny of certain applicants for positions involving research and determination of foreign principle for all non-research positions not recruited through GEMS Careers. These screenings are now part of the regular hiring process at USF. This means students applying for on-campus positions may be asked to complete a [Foreign Principal questionnaire](#) or go through the Foreign Influence screening if the position is research-related. You can read more about [foreign influence](#) and the [definitions](#) in the Florida statues on the [USF Compliance & Ethics website](#).

Asian International Students Participants Wanted

We received a request from a doctoral student at the University of Northern Colorado for F-1/J-1 students of Asian background to participate in their IRB-approved study on international student adjustment and acculturative stress. Participation in this study will involve completing several questionnaires that will take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete. The link to access the survey is: https://memphis.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eVxYUsBBAWqsEM5?Q_JFE=qdg. Students' responses will be confidential, and their participation will help in a small way to advance this field of study. Questions about the survey should be directed to lu.tian@unco.edu.

USF Academic Reminders

Spring 2024 Semester Important Dates

- March 11-17 – Spring Break
- March 25 – Registration for summer and fall
- April 26 – Last day of classes
- April 27- May 2 – Exam week
- May 4 – Official end of the semester for immigration purposes

Join our BullsConnect Group - <https://bullsconnect.usf.edu/INTLSVCS/clu>

A dark green banner with white and light green circular patterns. The text is centered and reads: Office of International Services, 4202 E Fowler Ave BEH 255 - Tampa, FL 33620, https://www.usf.edu/world/international-services/. Below this, it lists virtual drop-in and walk-in hours for Tampa, St Pete, and Sarasota campuses.

Office of International Services
4202 E Fowler Ave BEH 255 - Tampa, FL 33620
<https://www.usf.edu/world/international-services/>

Virtual Drop-In via Teams ([E-Form](#) in [iStart](#)) - Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 11am-1pm & Thurs 1pm-2pm
Walk-in Hours Tampa Campus ([BEH Map](#)) - Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 1pm-2pm & Thurs 2pm-4pm
Visit Schedule to USF St Pete & Sarasota - <https://www.usf.edu/world/international-services/about-us/contact-us.aspx>