

ECONOMIC HARDSHIP – DOCUMENTS NEEDED

A student in F-1 status may be eligible to apply for employment authorization based on unforeseen economic hardship. If employment opportunities on campus are not available or are otherwise insufficient, an eligible F-1 student may request off-campus employment based upon severe economic hardship. The circumstances that cause economic hardship may include substantial fluctuations in the value of currency of exchange rate or unexpected changes in the student's source of support, medical bills or other substantial and unexpected expenses.

You will need to submit to International Student Specialist:

- _____ Your Grossmont College I-20
- _____ Completed I-765 form <https://www.uscis.gov/i-765>
Code for #16 : (c)(3)(iii)
- _____ Photocopy of passport
- _____ A print out of your I-94 number. <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home>
- _____ Check or money order for \$410 – Payable to “U.S. Department of Homeland Security”
- _____ 2 photographs ‘Passport Style’ (Must be in color)
- _____ Letter from the student telling details of unforeseen economic hardship
- _____ Letter from sponsor as supporting statement (translated)
- _____ Any other supporting documentation as needed

The student will mail his or her documents “certified mail” with “return receipt” requested to

USCIS
P.O. Box 21281
Phoenix, AZ 85036

You can only apply for Economic Hardship if you:

- Have been in F-1 status for *one full academic year*
- Are in *good standing and full-time*
- Have not engaged in any *unauthorized employment*

The California Service Center (CSC) shall adjudicate the application for work authorization based on severe economic hardship on the basis of the I-20, I-765, and any additional supporting materials. If employment is authorized, the adjudicating officer shall issue an EAD (Employment Authorization Document). The CSC will notify the student of the decision. The employment authorization may be granted in one-year intervals up to the expected date of completion of the student's course of study. The student will need to apply for a new EAD each year. The California Service Center may approve the renewal request only if the student is maintaining status and is in good academic standing. The employment authorization is automatically terminated whenever the student fails to maintain status. If a student transfers to another institution, the EAD card is invalid. A student has permission to engage in off-campus work only after the student receives the EAD card from CSC.