ROOM 1 / OPT PROPOSED RULE

What is DHS proposing?

Optional Practical Training (OPT) lets eligible international students and recent graduates gain work experience in their field of study.

$70,000
First covered OPT recommendation

$30,000
Each subsequent OPT recommendation

Under the proposal, the school would pay DHS before recommending OPT.

What could this mean at Caltech?

If the proposal takes effect as written, schools would have to pay the fee before making a covered OPT recommendation. How schools would cover the cost is still an open question.

Scan to read the proposed rule

This is an informational, content-neutral event. The proposed fees are not in effect.

DHS proposed rule, 91 FR 64566 (October 8, 2026)

ROOM 1 / OPT PROPOSED RULE

Why are we having this conversation?

Public comments let individuals put their perspectives on the public record. Federal agencies must consider and respond to significant comments.

A separate example: Duration of Status (D/S)

DHS received nearly 22,000 public comments on the proposal.

A federal court temporarily blocked the final rule from taking effect. One reason was that DHS had failed to meaningfully address significant comments.

Commenting is optional. Individuals may support, oppose, or suggest changes to the OPT proposal in their own capacity.

Room 2 offers guidance on writing and submitting a public comment.

DHS final rule, 91 FR 44976, and U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts, September 14, 2026

Guide: Submitting Public Comments on Proposed OPT Fees

How submit official feedback to the U.S. Federal Register

Your Right to Speak: Federal agencies are legally required to review and consider all public comments before finalizing proposed rules. Non-U.S. citizens and citizen alike are fully permitted to submit feedback.

1. HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR COMMENT

1. Visit **www.regulations.gov**.
2. Search for **"Optional Practical Training Fees"** or Docket ID: **ICEB-2026-0100-0001**.
3. Click the **"Comment"** button to open the submission form.
4. Type your feedback into the comment box (up to 5,000 characters) or upload a PDF/Word attachment.
5. Select your preferred submission identity type (Identifiable vs. Anonymous - see below).
6. Click **Submit Comment** and write down your **Comment Tracking Number** for your records.

2. CHOOSE YOUR SUBMISSION OPTION

Option A: Individual (Name Displayed Publicly)

- **Selection:** Choose *Individual* under identity type.
- **Details required:** Name, City, State, and Country.
- **Public visibility:** Your full name and text will be publicly searchable on Regulations.gov.
- **Best for:** Those comfortable putting their name on record to share direct impacts publicly.

Option B: Anonymous Submission

- **Selection:** Check *"I want to submit an anonymous comment"*.
- **Details required:** None. Name and contact fields are hidden/omitted.
- **Public visibility:** Listed publicly as submitted by *"Anonymous"*.
- **Best for:** Those who prefer privacy and wish to avoid putting personal identity in a database.

⚠️ **Important Privacy Note for Anonymous Submissions:** If you choose Option B, ensure you do not type your name, student ID, university name, or personal email inside the body text or attached document, as the text itself becomes public record.

3. TIPS FOR AN EFFECTIVE COMMENT

- **Make it unique:** Mass-templated form letters are grouped together. Personal stories carry far more regulatory weight.
- **Explain your perspective:** Describe how the proposed rule may positively or negatively affect you, your work, your studies, or your community.
- **Provide evidence:** Support your comments with facts, data, research, examples, or personal experiences when possible.
- **Address potential impacts:** Identify unintended consequences, overlooked perspectives, or practical challenges the agency may not have considered.
- **Keep a professional tone:** Frame your statement around real-world facts, educational investments, and career practicalities rather than emotional reactions.