

# HOW TO OBTAIN A SOCIAL SECURITY CARD & NUMBER

Social Security is the U.S. government's social insurance plan. All U.S. citizens have a Social Security number which designates their account with the Social Security Administration (SSA). If you are employed in the United States, you will need a Social Security number, even if your pay is exempt from Social Security withholding. If you would like to work, whether on or off campus, you will need a Social Security card.

The only way that you can get a Social Security card is if you obtain a job.  
The SSA will not issue a Social Security number for any other reason.

**WORK = SSN #**

There are no exceptions!

If you have obtained an off-campus job for Curricular Practical Training (CPT) or Optional Practical Training (OPT), you will need a social security number.

To get a Social Security number, take your signed "On-Campus Work Permit" and contract or job offer from the employer, passport, I-20, and I-94 to the office of the Social Security Administration.



You will complete an application form that is available at the Social Security office. The passport is needed to prove your identity. It will take about two weeks to obtain your Social Security card.

**Social Security Administration**  
5140 E. Olive Ave, Fresno, CA 93727 1-866-  
366-4918  
Monday-Tuesday-Thursday-Friday  
9:00AM - 4:00PM  
Wednesday 9:00AM-12:00PM

(See map on other side)

There are several Social Security offices in Fresno, but we recommend that you go to the office listed above. The staff at this office is aware that international students need Social Security cards and are familiar with our "On-Campus Work Permit."

**For questions or concerns regarding how to obtain a social security card, please contact California State University, Fresno's International Student Services:**  
[intlstudentservices@csufresno.edu](mailto:intlstudentservices@csufresno.edu)

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International Student Services  
and Programs