APPLYING FOR F-1 ECONOMIC HARDSHIP

F-1 Federal Regulations: "If other employment opportunities are not available or are otherwise insufficient, an eligible F-1 student may request off-campus employment work authorization based upon severe economic hardship caused by unforeseen circumstances beyond the student’s control. These circumstances may include loss of financial aid or on-campus employment without fault on the part of the student, substantial fluctuations in the value of currency or exchange rate, inordinate increases in tuition and/or living costs, unexpected changes in the financial condition of the student’s source of support, medical bills, or other substantial and unexpected expenses."

8 CFR 214.2(f)(9)(ii)(C)

Submit the following documents to the CGE by uploading them in NoleStart (https://istart.fsu.edu). Click on F-1 Student Services.

- Completed USCIS Form I-765. For Eligibility Category, use the code (c) (3) (iii). Complete the I-765 form found at www.uscis.gov.
- Letter from you describing the sudden, unforeseen economic hardship situation. Explain why other employment options are unavailable or insufficient.
- Letter from your financial sponsor (if applicable), explaining why they can no longer provide financial support and how circumstances have changed.
- Documentation (as much as necessary) that provides evidence of your situation. Examples: Letter from academic department if unforeseen change in departmental funding, newspaper article or other documentation as evidence of currency devaluation, national crisis, freeze on transferring money abroad, natural disaster, etc.
- A sample budget showing your monthly expenses and the amount of tuition and fees that you have to pay the University. This should also show the amount of financial support that you currently have available.

Your CGE advisor will review the materials you submit. If approved, your advisor will send you a new I-20 with the recommendation for economic hardship and instructions for submission.

You will need these additional documents to submit to USCIS with your application:

- 2 identical passport style photos less than 30 days old with your name and I-94 number written in pencil on the back.
- Copy of I-94
- Copy of passport bio page and F-1 visa (if available)
- Payment for application fee (more information below)

*** When you send your application to USCIS, be sure to attach a check or money order for the $410 application fee (recommended) if not requesting a fee waiver (USCIS Form I-912). The $410 check or money order should be made payable to: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Refer to the USCIS website for the correct mailing address. https://www.uscis.gov/i-765