

## **HOW TO OBTAIN A SOCIAL SECURITY CARD**

### **Who must have a Social Security Card?**

International students in F-1/J-1 visa status who have been offered on-campus employment, graduate assistantships, or who are authorized for off-campus employment, as permitted under immigration regulations, must apply for a U.S. Social Security Number (SSN) from the Social Security Administration (SSA).

### **Social Security Number (SSN)**

This is a unique nine-digit number assigned by the SSA to all US citizens, permanent residents, and non-immigrants authorized to work in the US and being paid by the US employer. Its primary function is to track individuals for taxation purposes; it serves as a Federal Taxpayer Identification Number and is used by the Internal Revenue Service to collect federal income taxes and enforce tax reporting and collection law. Each individual may have only one SSN.

### **New Students**

Please note: SEVIS information may not reach the SSA until 10 days after your SEVIS record has been activated. Therefore, the SSA advises students to apply for SSN no earlier than 10 calendar days after the student's record is activated in SEVIS (activation will take place approximately 1 week after the student's

form from the website <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov>. If you entered by land rather than air or sea, you may have a paper Form I-94.  
Your Zip Card (University of Akron ID).

**Working While Awaiting an SSN**

You may work while your application for the Social Security Card is being processed. You need to