

Changing CIP Codes: Part 1

This blog is the first in a two-part series that discusses the process of changing the CIP Code(s). Part I explains how to add or remove CIP Codes to the DHS STEM Designated Degree List, while Part II describes how faculty/staff at IPEDS institutions request to change the CIP Code that describes their academic program.

One of the most frequent questions NCES receives is “How can I submit a CIP code to be added to the [DHS STEM Designated Degree Program List?](#)” While NCES does oversee and administer the CIP Codes, this has always been a challenging question for NCES to answer since it does not have a decision-making role in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) program designations made by DHS. Upon degree completion, any foreign student whose program of study is included in the STEM Designated Degree Program List qualifies to extend their F-1 visa for an additional 24 months of Optional Practical Training (OpT). In comparison, students whose degree is in a non-STEM related field may only extend their F-1 visa for 12 months of OpT.

Until recently, our standard response was that the Student and Exchange Visit Program (SEVP) in the Department of Homeland Security updated the list of STEM Designated Degree Program List decennially, when a new edition of the CIP is published.

NCES recently learned that the SEVP Office in DHS will be updating the list of STEM Codes annually. Each summer, the SEVP office will send out a broadcast message to stakeholders and publish it on the [SEVP website](#) and [blog](#) requesting nominations for CIP Codes to either be added or removed from the [DHS STEM Designated Degree Program List](#). Announcements will also be posted on the SEVP [Facebook](#) and [Twitter pages](#). This year, the [broadcast message](#) was sent out on May 16, 2022 and requested that nominations for CIP Codes to be added or removed from the STEM Degree Program List be submitted by email to the SEVP Response Center by August 1, 2022. If a code was submitted after the August 1st deadline then it will be considered in the next year.

In order for a nomination to be considered this year, stakeholders needed to submit the following information:

- Title and six-digit code of the CIP code being nominated.
- The name, email address and telephone number of the nominator
- If nominating a CIP code for inclusion, a description of how the field of study under this CIP code engages students in research, innovation or development of new technologies using engineering, mathematics, computer science or natural sciences (including physical, biological and agricultural sciences).
- If nominating a CIP code for removal, a description of how the field of study under this CIP code does not engage students in research, innovation or development of new technologies using engineering, mathematics, computer science or natural sciences (including physical, biological and agricultural sciences).

All nominations were reviewed by a committee of DHS employees and the updated [DHS STEM Designated Degree Program](#) List was published the following January in the federal register. For example, the 2022 DHS STEM Designated Degree List was published in the federal register on [January 21, 2022](#). When the list DHS STEM Designated Degree Program List is published in the federal register, it is considered final and not open to comments.

Currently, NCES is working with the SEVP office to find out how IPEDS users can become involved in nominating new codes for inclusion or exclusion in the STEM Designated Degree Program List. For now, NCES is encouraging IPEDS stakeholders to monitor the SEVP website, blog and twitter sites to stay informed. NCES will also keep IPEDS users informed about the upcoming nomination process through the IPEDS [Twitter](#) Feed, [Ask the CIP Specialist Blog](#) and [This Week in IPEDS](#) (TWII).