



MEMO

June 2019

RE: CIP Code for UC Berkeley Bachelors (B.A.), Masters (M.A.), and PhD of Economics 45.0603 - Econometrics and Quantitative Economics

Dear USCIS Adjudicator:

At UC Berkeley, all Economics programs (Bachelors, Masters, and PhD) are designated and coded with the CIP code 45.0603 - Econometrics and Quantitative Economics. CIP code determinations are made at the University level (not by the DSO), and have final approval from the University of California Office of the President, after review and approvals by the University Registrar, Office of Planning and Analysis, and (for graduate students) the Graduate Division. 45.0603 - Econometrics and Quantitative Economics is found in the STEM eligible CIP code list:

<https://www.ice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Document/2016/stem-list.pdf>

The student's SEVIS record shows the STEM CIP and major coding, as do the student's OPT and STEM I-20s. In June 2019, all Economics major CIP codes retroactive to Fall 2017 (for students enrolled in Economics 8/16/2017 or later) were updated at the institutional level prior to recommendation for the STEM extension. F-1 regulations at 8 CFR 214.2(f)(10)(ii)(C)(2)(iii) state: *At the time the DSO recommends a 24-month OPT extension under this paragraph (f)(10)(ii)(C) in SEVIS, the degree that is the basis for the application for the OPT extension must be contained within a category on the STEM Designated Degree Program List.*

The university determined that the Economics programs best align with CIP 45.0603 - Econometrics and Quantitative Economics, the description of which, according to the U.S. Department of Education (National Center for Education Statistics, 2010 CIP), is as follows: "A program that focuses on the systematic study of mathematical and statistical analysis of economic phenomena and problems. Includes instruction in economic statistics, optimization theory, cost/benefit analysis, price theory, economic modeling, and economic forecasting and evaluation."

Berkeley International Office understands that there may be some confusion when a CIP code does not directly mirror the major name as stated on the diploma or transcript. USCIS should be aware that it is common for a particular major name to differ from the designated CIP coding for the degree.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact a DSO at Berkeley International Office at internationaloffice@berkeley.edu or 510-642-2818.

Sincerely,
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