

MEMO

RE: CIP Code for the Infectious Diseases & Immunity MS and PhD degree programs – 26.0502, Microbiology, General

Dear USCIS Adjudicator:

The **UC Berkeley Infectious Diseases & Immunity MS and PhD degree programs** are assigned the **CIP code 26.0502, Microbiology, General**. 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 the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education (for undergraduate programs) or the Graduate Division (for graduate programs). CIP code information is also reported to WASC Senior College and University Commission by the Accreditation Liaison Officer.

The CIP code 26.0502, Microbiology, General, is found on the DHS STEM Designated Degree Program List: <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/stem-opt-hub/additional-resources/eligible-cip-codes-for-the-stem-opt-extension>. The student's SEVIS record and I-20 reflect the STEM-eligible CIP code. 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 Infectious Diseases & Immunity MS and PhD degree programs best align with CIP code 26.0502, Microbiology, General, the description of which, according to the U.S. Department of Education (National Center for Education Statistics, 2020 CIP), is as follows: "A program that focuses on the scientific study of unicellular organisms and colonies, and subcellular genetic matter and their ecological interactions with human beings and other life. Includes instruction in microbial genetics, cell biology, cell physiology, virology, pathogenic microbiology, environmental microbiology, immunology, biostatistics, bioinformatics, and laboratory methods including microscopy."

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

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,

Berkeley International Office
University of California at Berkeley