



# MEMO

January 2019

RE: CIP Code for UC Berkeley Journalism Masters (M.J.) or Bachelors (B.A.) 09.0702— Digital Communication and Media/Multimedia

Dear USCIS Adjudicator:

At UC Berkeley, both the Masters and Bachelors of Journalism programs are designated and coded with the CIP code 09.0702— Digital Communication and Media/Multimedia. 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. The CIP code 09.0702— Digital Communication and Media/Multimedia 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 clearly shows the STEM CIP and major coding, as does the student's STEM I-20, and OPT I-20s. The Journalism major CIP code was updated in March 2018 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.*

UC Berkeley has determined that the M.J and B.A Journalism programs best align with 09.0702— Digital Communication and Media/Multimedia, 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 development, use, critical evaluation, and regulation of new electronic communication technologies using computer applications; and that prepares individuals to function as developers and managers of digital communications media. Includes instruction in computer and telecommunications technologies and processes; design and development of digital communications; marketing and distribution; digital communications regulation, law, and policy; the study of human interaction with, and use of, digital media; and emerging trends and issues."

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](mailto:internationaloffice@berkeley.edu) or 510-642-2818.

Sincerely,  
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