



MEMO

January 2020

RE: CIP Code for UC Berkeley Master of City Planning CIP 30.3301-Sustainability Studies

Dear USCIS Adjudicator:

At UC Berkeley, the Master of City Planning (MCP) degree is designated and coded with the CIP code 30.3301-Sustainability Studies. 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. CIP 30.3301-Sustainability Studies 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 March 2019, The Master of City Planning major CIP code was updated at the institutional level (retroactive to Fall 2018 – for all students enrolled in MCP 8/15/2018 or later) 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 Master of City Planning program best aligns with CIP 30.3301-Sustainability Studies, 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 concept of sustainability from an interdisciplinary perspective. Includes instruction in sustainable development, environmental policies, ethics, ecology, landscape architecture, city and regional planning, economics, natural resources, sociology, and anthropology.

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,
University of California at Berkeley
Berkeley International Office
2150 Shattuck Avenue, Suite 500
Berkeley, CA 94704