MEMO

November 2023


Dear USCIS Adjudicator:

At UC Berkeley, the Metabolic Biology MS and PhD programs are designated and coded with the CIP code 30.1901, Nutrition Sciences. 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 code 30.1901, Nutrition Sciences, is found in 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 clearly shows the STEM CIP and major coding, as do the student's OPT and STEM OPT I-20s. UC Berkeley has determined that the Metabolic Biology MS and PhD programs best align with 30.1901, Nutrition Sciences, the description of which, according to the U.S. Department of Education (National Center for Education Statistics, 2020 CIP), is as follows: "A scientific program that focuses on the utilization of food for human growth and metabolism, in both normal and dysfunctional states, from the interdisciplinary perspective of the agricultural, human, biological, and biomedical sciences. Includes instruction in food science, biochemistry, physiology, dietetics, food and nutrition studies, biotechnology, biophysics, and the clinical sciences."

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 code 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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