



MEMO

December 2019

RE: CIP Code for UC Berkeley Master of Financial Engineering CIP 27.0305 Financial Mathematics

FOR: All Master of Financial Engineering Graduates after November 2018

Dear USCIS Adjudicator:

At UC Berkeley, the Master of Financial Engineering (MFE) program is designated and coded with the CIP code 27.0305—Financial Mathematics. 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 27.0305—Financial Mathematics 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 do the student's OPT and STEM I-20s. In November 2018, all MFE major CIP codes were updated at the institutional level for currently enrolled and future students. 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 Financial Engineering program best aligns with Financial Mathematics, 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 application of mathematics and statistics to the finance industry, including the development, critique, and use of various financial models. Includes instruction in probability theory, statistical analysis, numerical methods, computation and simulation methods, stochastic processes, economics, and financial markets and applications."

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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