



# MEMO

November 2023

**RE: CIP Code for UC Berkeley Master of Public Policy (MPP) and Public Policy PhD degrees – 45.0102, Social Sciences: Research Methodology and Quantitative Methods**

Dear USCIS Adjudicator:

At UC Berkeley, the Master of Public Policy (MPP) and Public Policy PhD degrees are designated and coded with the CIP code 45.0102 – Social Sciences: Research Methodology and Quantitative Methods. 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 45.0102, Social Sciences: Research Methodology and Quantitative Methods, 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 shows the STEM CIP and major coding, as does the student's STEM OPT I-20. In November 2022, all UC Berkeley Public Policy major CIP codes retroactive to Spring 2022 (for all students who were enrolled in Public Policy programs 1/18/2022 or later) were updated at the institutional level prior to recommendation for the STEM OPT 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 Public Policy (MPP) and Public Policy PhD degree programs best align with 45.0102 – Social Sciences: Research Methodology and Quantitative Methods, 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 design of research studies, measurement of variables, data analysis, and formulation of models. Includes instruction in experimental, quasi-experimental, and case study methods; historical research; participant observation; questionnaire design; sampling theory; and statistical methods."

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,

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