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(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.115, Biometry and Risk Estimation—Health Risks from Environmental Exposures; 93.142, NIEHS Hazardous Waste Worker Health and Safety Training; 93.143, NIEHS Superfund Hazardous Substances—Basic Research and Education; 93.894, Resources and Manpower Development in the Environmental Health Sciences; 93.113, Biological Response to Environmental Health Hazards; 93.114, Applied Toxicological Research and Testing, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: July 6, 2023.

**Miguelina Perez,**

*Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

[Docket No. ICEB–2022–0016]

RIN 1653–ZA36

### Update to the Department of Homeland Security STEM Designated Degree Program List

**AGENCY:** U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces that the Secretary of Homeland Security (Secretary) is amending the DHS STEM Designated Degree Program List by adding eight qualifying fields of study and a corresponding Department of Education Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code for each. No CIP codes from the existing list are being removed. The list is used to determine whether a degree obtained by certain F–1 nonimmigrant students following the completion of a program of study qualifies as a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) degree as determined by DHS, as required for the F–1 student to be eligible to apply for a 24-month extension of their post-completion optional practical training (OPT).

**DATES:** DHS adopts the list announced in this notice as of July 12, 2023.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Sharon Snyder, Unit Chief, Policy and Response Center Unit, Student and Exchange Visitor Program; U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 500 12th Street SW, Stop 5600, Washington, DC 20536–5600; email: [sevp@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:sevp@ice.dhs.gov), telephone: (703) 603–3400. This is not a toll-free number.

Program information is available at <https://www.ice.gov/sevis/>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**What action is DHS taking under this notice?**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is updating the list of STEM fields of study that fall within the regulatory definition of “STEM field.” The list, known as the DHS STEM Designated Degree Program List (“STEM list”),<sup>1</sup> is used to determine whether a degree obtained by an F–1 nonimmigrant student qualifies as a STEM degree, as required for the F–1 nonimmigrant student to be eligible to apply for a STEM OPT extension. The current format of the STEM list, which consists of four primary CIP code series designated at the two-digit level, and CIP codes in related fields designated at the six-digit level, was established in a final rule issued in 2016.<sup>2</sup> The STEM list was most recently updated in 2022.<sup>3</sup>

**Why is DHS taking this action?**

In 2016, DHS published a final rule providing a 24-month extension of OPT for F–1 nonimmigrant students who majored in a designated STEM field of study. *See* 81 FR 13039 (March 11, 2016) (“Improving and Expanding Training Opportunities for F–1 Nonimmigrant Students With STEM Degrees and Cap-Gap Relief for All Eligible F–1 Students”) (“2016 STEM Rule”). The 2016 STEM Rule stated that DHS will continue to accept for consideration suggested additions or deletions to the STEM list and may publish updates to the STEM list in the **Federal Register**. In 2022, DHS published a **Federal Register** notice announcing the addition of 22 qualifying fields of study to the STEM list. *See* 87 FR 3317 (January 21, 2022) (“Update to the Department of Homeland Security STEM Designated Degree List”). The **Federal Register** notice also included instructions for how interested parties, including members of the public, can nominate CIP codes for potential inclusion on or removal from the STEM list. DHS received from interested parties, including members of the public, a total of 285 nominations, representing 120 unique fields of study, to be added to the STEM list. DHS did not receive any nominations to remove CIP codes currently on the list. DHS is now announcing that a number of the fields

of study submitted for consideration will be added to the STEM list.<sup>4</sup> Nominators may resubmit a nomination with additional supporting views and evidence, at any time, if their original submission is not addressed in this notice.

**What is OPT and STEM OPT?**

OPT is one type of work permission available to certain F–1 nonimmigrant students. It allows eligible F–1 students (except those in English language training programs) to obtain real-world work experience directly related to their major area of study.

The STEM OPT extension is a 24-month extension of OPT available to F–1 nonimmigrant students who have completed 12 months of OPT and received a degree in an approved STEM field of study as designated by the STEM list.

**Who may be impacted by this notice?**

This notice may impact qualifying F–1 nonimmigrant students who seek a 24-month extension of post-completion OPT.

**Where can I find the STEM list?**

The STEM list can be found in the docket for this notice and on the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) website.<sup>5</sup>

**What authority does DHS have to make changes to the STEM list?**

The Secretary has broad authority to administer and enforce the Nation’s immigration laws. *See generally* 6 U.S.C. 202; Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, as amended (INA), sec. 103, 8 U.S.C. 1103. The INA establishes the F–1 nonimmigrant classification for individuals who wish to enter the United States temporarily and solely for the purpose of pursuing a full course of study at an academic institution or accredited language training school certified by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s (ICE) SEVP. *See* INA sec. 101(a)(15)(F)(i), 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(F)(i). The INA provides the Secretary with broad authority to determine the time and conditions under which nonimmigrants, including F–1 students, may be admitted to the United States. *See* INA sec. 214(a)(1), 8 U.S.C. 1184(a)(1). The Secretary also has broad authority to determine which individuals are authorized for

<sup>4</sup> While the 2016 STEM Rule provided for “additions or deletions to the list,” no deletions will be made at this time.

<sup>5</sup> *See* SEVP, Eligible CIP Codes for the STEM OPT Extension, <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/stem-opt-hub/additional-resources/eligible-cip-codes-for-the-stem-opt-extension> (last visited Oct. 25, 2022).

<sup>1</sup> ICE, DHS STEM Designated Degree Program List, <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/stemList2022.pdf> (last visited Oct. 25, 2022).

<sup>2</sup> *See* 81 FR 13039, Mar. 11, 2016.

<sup>3</sup> *See* 87 FR 3317, Jan. 21, 2022.

employment in the United States. See INA sec. 274A(h)(3), 8 U.S.C. 1324a(h)(3). Finally, the Secretary, or his or her designee, has authority to maintain the STEM list, which is a complete list of qualifying degree program categories published on the SEVP website at <https://www.ice.gov/sevis>. Changes that are made to the STEM list may also be published in a notice in the **Federal Register**. See 8 CFR 214.2(f)(10)(ii)(C)(2)(i).

#### Who may nominate a CIP code?

Interested parties, including members of the public, may nominate a CIP code for inclusion on, or removal from, the STEM list.

#### How does DHS assess nominations?

Nominations to add or remove degrees from the STEM list are assessed consistent with the authorizing regulation.<sup>6</sup> As defined in the governing regulations, a STEM field is a field included in the CIP taxonomy<sup>7</sup> that falls within the two-digit series containing engineering, biological sciences, mathematics and statistics, and physical sciences, or a related field, which generally involves research, innovation, or development of new technologies using engineering, mathematics, computer science, or natural sciences (including physical, biological, and agricultural sciences). See 8 CFR 214.2(f)(10)(ii)(C)(2)(i). This definition is widely used by U.S. institutions of higher education and provides an objective measure by which to identify STEM fields of study.

Through regulation,<sup>8</sup> DHS has designated four areas as core STEM fields and lists these four areas at the two-digit CIP code level. As a result, any new additions to those areas are automatically included on the STEM list. These four areas are: Engineering (CIP code 14), Biological and Biomedical Sciences (CIP code 26), Mathematics and Statistics (CIP code 27), and Physical Sciences (CIP code 40). If a degree is not within the four core fields, DHS considers whether the degree is in a STEM-related field listed at the six-digit level. The six-digit designation allows for individualized review of a specific field of study to ensure it meets the “related field” criteria of “involving research,

innovation, or development of new technologies using engineering, mathematics, computer science, or natural sciences (including physical, biological, and agricultural sciences).”

SEVP evaluates submissions to assess whether the degree is generally considered to be a STEM degree by recognized authorities, including input from educational institutions, governmental entities, and non-governmental entities. SEVP also reviews the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) definition of the CIP code, and any supporting material submitted by the nominator, such as the required curriculum for the degree and the extent to which it is comprised of core STEM disciplines, as well as research, innovation, and development of new technologies using engineering, mathematics, computer science, or natural sciences (including physical, biological, and agricultural sciences). Additionally, degree requirements and curriculum may be assessed across academic institutions to ensure that the core aspects of the degree are sufficiently consistent among educational institutions.

A proposed addition does not have to have all supporting elements to be added to the STEM list. DHS assesses the totality of a submission and may approve a proposed CIP code if the submission presents sufficient evidence and reasoning to establish that the degree under consideration fits within the regulatory definition of a STEM field.

#### How may a nomination be submitted?

Nominations may be submitted by email to the SEVP Response Center at [SEVP@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:SEVP@ice.dhs.gov), with the subject line “Attention: STEM CIP Code Nomination.”

#### What new fields of study will be added to the STEM list?

The following fields of study are being added to the STEM list:

**Landscape Architecture (04.0601)** *A program that prepares individuals for the independent professional practice of landscape architecture and research in various aspects of the field. Includes instruction in geology and hydrology; soils, groundcovers, and horticultural elements; project and site planning; landscape design, history, and theory; environmental design; applicable law and regulations; and professional responsibilities and standards.* This field of study, as described in the NCES definition, is comprised of STEM disciplines such as research, innovation, or development of new technologies

using natural sciences, engineering, and mathematics.

**Institutional Research (13.0608)** *A program of study that prepares an individual to be an institutional researcher at a postsecondary educational institution. Includes instruction in data analysis, data-driven decision-making, data mining, higher education administration and organization, research methods, and statistics.* This is a new CIP code added by NCES in its decennial 2020 update to the CIP. The field of study, as described in the NCES definition, is comprised of STEM disciplines such as research, innovation, or development of new technologies using mathematics and computer science.

**Mechatronics, Robotics, and Automation Engineering Technology/ Technician (15.0407)** *A program that prepares individuals to apply basic engineering principles and technical skills in the support of engineers to the design, development, and operational evaluation of autonomous, computer-controlled, electro-mechanical systems. Includes instruction in computer and software engineering, control engineering, electronic and electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, and robotics.* This is a new CIP code added by NCES in its decennial 2020 update to the CIP. The field of study, as described in the NCES definition, is comprised of STEM disciplines such as research, innovation, or development of new technologies using engineering and computer science.

**Composite Materials Technology/ Technician (15.0617)** *A program of study that prepares individuals to apply basic engineering principles and technical skills in support of engineers and other professionals engaged in the development, manufacture, and use of composite materials in aircraft technology, automotive technology, boats, medical prostheses, and wind turbines. Includes instruction in computer-aided design and drafting, composite materials and processes, composite maintenance, composite manufacturing, composite repair, material science, and mold manufacturing and production.* This is a new CIP code added by NCES in its decennial 2020 update to the CIP. The field of study, as described in the NCES definition, is comprised of STEM disciplines such as research, innovation, or development of new technologies using engineering, physical sciences, and computer science.

**Linguistics and Computer Science (30.4801)** *A program that focuses on the relationship between computer and human language and computational*

<sup>6</sup> See 8 CFR 214.2(f)(10)(ii)(C)(2).

<sup>7</sup> The CIP taxonomy is a taxonomic scheme that was developed by the Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) to support the accurate tracking and reporting of fields of study and program completion activity. See the NCES website (<https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/Default.aspx?y=55>) (last visited Oct. 25, 2022).

<sup>8</sup> See 8 CFR 214.2(f)(10)(ii)(C)(2)(i).

*techniques applied to natural language. Includes instruction in computer programming, human languages, linguistic analysis, logic, natural language processing, semantics, machine learning, psycholinguistics, software engineering, and syntax.* This is a new CIP code added by NCES in its decennial 2020 update to the CIP. The field of study, as described in the NCES definition, is comprised of STEM disciplines such as research, innovation, or development of new technologies using computer science.

**Developmental and Adolescent Psychology (42.2710)** *A program that focuses on the scientific study of the unique stages of psychological growth and development of individuals from adolescence to adulthood. Includes instruction in cognitive and perceptual development, emotional development, personality development, the effects of biological maturation on behavior, theories of cognitive growth and related research methods, testing and assessment methods for different age levels, research on child and adolescent behavior therapy, and the psychology of aging.* This is a new CIP code added by NCES in its decennial 2020 update to the CIP. The field of study, as described in the NCES definition, is comprised of STEM disciplines such as research, innovation, or development of new technologies using biological sciences.

**Geospatial Intelligence (43.0407)** *A program that prepares individuals to analyze security and intelligence problems using a geographic perspective by relating human actions to cultural, political, economic, social, and physical landscapes. Includes instruction in aerial photography analysis, cartography, geographic information systems (GIS), physical geography, remote sensing, spatial programming, and quantitative methods in geographic research.* This is a new CIP code added by NCES in its decennial 2020 update to the CIP. The field of study, as described in the NCES definition, is comprised of STEM disciplines such as research, innovation, or development of new technologies using mathematics and computer science.

**Demography and Population Studies (45.0501)** *A program that focuses on the systematic study of population models and population phenomena, and related problems of social structure and behavior. Includes instruction in population growth, spatial distribution, mortality and fertility factors, migration, dynamic population modeling, population estimation and projection, mathematical and statistical analysis of population data, population policy studies, and applications to problems in*

*economics and government planning.* The field of study, as described in the NCES definition, is comprised of STEM disciplines such as research, innovation, or development of new technologies using mathematics and computer science.

#### **Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA)**

Eligible students are required to submit a Form I-765, "Application for Employment Authorization," to request employment authorization and an Employment Authorization Document, and a Form I-983, "Training Plan for STEM OPT Students," to ensure that they are receiving the academic and training benefits of the STEM OPT extension. Consistent with the PRA, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has previously approved the collection of information contained on the current Form I-765 (OMB Control No. 1615-0040) and Form I-983 (OMB Control No. 1653-0054). Although there could be a slight increase in the number of filings for both the Form I-765 and Form I-983 because of this notice, the number of filings currently contained in the OMB annual inventory is sufficient to cover any additional filings. Accordingly, there is no further action required under the PRA.

**Alejandro N. Mayorkas,**

*Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security.*

[FR Doc. 2023-14807 Filed 7-11-23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4410-10-P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

[Docket No. DHS-2023-0021]

### **Homeland Security Academic Partnership Council**

**AGENCY:** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), The Office of Partnership and Engagement (OPE).

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting of the Homeland Security Academic Partnership Council.

**SUMMARY:** The Homeland Security Academic Partnership Council (HSAPC) will hold a public meeting on Monday, August 7, 2023. The meeting will be open to the public via web conference.

**DATES:** The meeting will take place from 3:00 p.m. EST to 4:00 p.m. EST on Monday, August 7, 2023. Please note that the meeting may end early if the Council has completed its business.

**ADDRESSES:** The HSAPC meeting will be held via web conference. Members of the public interested in participating may do so by following the process

outlined below. The public will be in listen-only mode. Written comments can be submitted no later than Wednesday, August 9, 2023. Comments must be identified by Docket No. DHS-2023-0021 and may be submitted by one of the following methods:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments, or

- **Email:** [DHSAcademic@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:DHSAcademic@hq.dhs.gov). Include Docket No. DHS-2023-0021 in the subject line of the message.

**Instructions:** All submissions received must include the words "Department of Homeland Security" and "DHS-2023-0021," the docket number for your comments. Comments received will be posted without alteration at <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided. You may wish to review the Privacy and Security Notice found via a link on the homepage of [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

**Docket:** For access to the docket to read comments received by the Council, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>, search "DHS-2023-0021," and "Open Docket Folder" to view the comments.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Tamara Molina, Acting Deputy Executive Director of the Office of Academic Engagement and Alternate Designated Federal Officer, Homeland Security Academic Partnership Council, Department of Homeland Security at [DHSAcademic@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:DHSAcademic@hq.dhs.gov) or 202-891-3108.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice of this meeting is given under Section 10(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), Public Law 117-286 (5 U.S.C. ch. 10), which requires each FACA committee meeting to be open to the public unless the President, or the head of the agency to which the advisory committee reports, determines that a portion of the meeting may be closed to the public in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c).

The HSAPC provides provide organizationally independent, strategic, timely, specific, and actionable recommendations to the Secretary on key issues at the intersection of education, academia, and the DHS mission. The meeting will include:

- (1) Remarks from Senior DHS leaders,
- (2) Introduction and swearing in of members, and
- (3) The Announcement of New Taskings.

Members of the public will be in listen-only mode. Members of the public may register to participate in this Council meeting via web conference under the following procedures. Each