Broadcast Message: DHS Announces Updated STEM Designated Degree Program List

To: All SEVIS Users

Date: July 12, 2023

Number: 2307-02

On July 12, 2023, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) published a Federal Register notice announcing the addition of eight Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes to the DHS STEM Designated Degree Program List.

The DHS STEM Designated Degree Program List is a list of fields of study that DHS considers to be science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) for the purpose of the 24-month STEM optional practical training (OPT) extension. As part of the 2016 STEM OPT final rule, "Improving and Expanding Training Opportunities for F-1 Nonimmigrant Students With STEM Degrees and Cap-Gap Relief for All Eligible F-1 Students," DHS noted that it would make "periodic updates to the STEM list in response to changes in STEM fields, academic programs, or technological trends." After reviewing nominations submitted by interested parties, including members of the public, DHS is adding eight fields of study, as identified by a unique CIP code, to the list.

DHS provides guidance to stakeholders about how to submit CIP code nominations for potential inclusion on or removal from the DHS STEM Designated Degree Program List. Additional information about CIP code eligibility, the CIP code nomination process and how the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) assesses nominations is available at ICE.gov/SEVIS/Schools, under the DHS STEM Designated Degree Program List and CIP Code Nomination Process header. SEVP reviews nominations on an annual cycle; nominations for the next annual review cycle are due to SEVP by Aug. 1, 2023. Stakeholders do not need to submit a nomination for a CIP code that is already on the DHS STEM Designated Degree Program List.

For additional information about the DHS STEM Designated Degree Program List, fields of study that qualify for the STEM OPT extension and the CIP code nomination process, please refer to:

- The Federal Register notice announcing the CIP code additions.
- The updated DHS STEM Designated Degree Program List.
- The Eligible CIP Codes for the STEM OPT Extension page on the Study in the States STEM OPT Hub.
- ICE.gov/SEVIS/Schools, under the DHS STEM Designated Degree Program List and CIP Code Nomination Process header.

Disclaimer

This Broadcast Message is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it itself a rule or a final action by SEVP. It is not intended to, does not, and may not be relied upon to create

any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by any party in any administrative, civil or criminal matter.