

Broadcast Message: Update to the DHS STEM Designated Degree Program List

To: All SEVIS Users

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On July 22, 2024, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) published a [Federal Register notice](#) announcing the amendment of the DHS STEM Designated Degree Program List by adding one qualifying field of study and a corresponding U.S. Department of Education Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code for that field. The field of study being added to the STEM list is Environmental/Natural Resource Economics (03.0204).

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 extension of optional practical training (OPT). 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 envisioned making “periodic updates to the STEM list in response to changes in STEM fields, academic programs, or technological trends” and would “review recommendations from the public concerning potential additions or deletions to the list.” After reviewing nominations submitted by interested parties, including members of the public, DHS is adding one field of study, Environmental/Natural Resource Economics (03.0204), 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](https://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 on or before Aug. 1, 2024. 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 and fields of study that qualify for the STEM OPT extension, please refer to:

- The [Federal Register notice](#) announcing the CIP code addition.
- 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](#).

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