

## MEMO

**RE: CIP Code for the UC Berkeley Master of Financial Engineering (MFE) degree program - 27.0305, Financial Mathematics**

Dear USCIS Adjudicator:

The **UC Berkeley Master of Financial Engineering (MFE) degree program** is assigned the **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 the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education (for undergraduate programs) or the Graduate Division (for graduate programs). CIP code information is also reported to WASC Senior College and University Commission by the Accreditation Liaison Officer.

The CIP code 27.0305, Financial Mathematics, is found on 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 and I-20 reflect the STEM-eligible CIP code. 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 (MFE) degree program best aligns with CIP code 27.0305, Financial Mathematics, 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 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 name of the degree program as listed on the diploma or transcript. USCIS should be aware that it is common for a particular degree program name to differ from the title of the CIP code assigned to it.

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,

Berkeley International Office  
University of California at Berkeley