

Subject: SEVIS NOTICE - Correction to STEM Designated Degree Program List

PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS MESSAGE

SEVIS NOTICE - September 25, 2008

This broadcast message is sent to notify users of a correction to the list of STEM Designated Degree Programs on the Student and Exchange Visitor Program Web site. SEVP was recently alerted of an omission to the current list. Specifically, Chemical Engineering (14.0701) was omitted from the list.

The STEM Designated Degree Programs list is a directory of CIP codes published by the National Center for Education Statistics that have been designated by the Department of Homeland Security as science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM) degrees for the purpose of approving a 17-month STEM extension of optional practical training (OPT) under the provisions of 8 CFR 214.2(f)(10)(ii)(C).

Students enrolled in Chemical Engineering (14.0701) are eligible for the 17-month STEM extension of OPT if they meet other eligibility requirements for the extension. If a student's application for employment authorization for the 17-month STEM extension has been denied because the program was omitted from the list of STEM Designated Degree Programs, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will reopen the application upon notice from SEVP. (USCIS cannot entertain any requests to reopen an application based upon omission from the list of STEM Designated Degree Programs that does not come directly from SEVP/ICE.) While this does not guarantee approval, a USCIS adjudicator will review the application to determine if the denial was based on a service error.

To pursue this option, we ask that students or designated school officials email SEVP at sevis.source@dhs.gov with "STEM denial review - chemical engineering" in the subject. The email should include the student's full name, SEVIS ID, USCIS receipt number for the Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, and a brief description of the issue. SEVP will work with officials at USCIS to begin the review process.

The updated STEM Designated Degree Program list is found at www.ice.gov/sevis. Should you have any questions regarding this message, please contact SEVP by email at sevis.source@dhs.gov.

Thank you.

Student and Exchange Visitor Program