

Deciding on an Academic Major: Information for International Students

9.11.2020 *with 2010 CIP codes*

In alignment with our mission, Augustana College encourages every student to pursue a major that helps develop their gifts, skills and talents toward a career and/or graduate school path meaningful to them. With this in mind, some international students who are interested in STEM majors (science, technology, engineering, math) and wish to extend their OPT beyond one-year post-graduation, may wish to consider a STEM field which can help facilitate this.

The following [CIP code information is provided by SEVIS](#) in consultation with the Department of Education:

“The STEM Designated Degree Program list is a complete list of fields of study that DHS considers to be science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) fields of study for purposes of the 24-month STEM optional practical training extension described at 8 CFR 214.2(f). Under 8 CFR 214.2(f)(10)(ii)(C)(2), a STEM field of study is a field of study “included in the Department of Education’s Classification of Instructional Programs taxonomy within the two-digit series containing engineering, biological sciences, mathematics, and physical sciences, or a related field. In general, related fields will include fields involving research, innovation, or development of new technologies using engineering, mathematics, computer science, or natural sciences (including physical, biological, and agricultural sciences).”

Accordingly, this list designates the following four CIP summary groups/series at the 2-digit CIP code level: Engineering (CIP code 14), Biological and Biomedical Sciences (CIP code 26), Mathematics and Statistics (CIP code 27), and Physical Sciences (CIP code 40). Any new additions to those areas will automatically be included on this STEM Designated Degree Program list. Consistent with the definition of “related field” above, related fields in this list include fields involving research, innovation, or development of new technologies using engineering, mathematics, computer science, or natural sciences. DHS designates these fields at the 6-digit level.”

<https://www.ice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Document/2016/stem-list.pdf>

The chart of SEVIS-approved Augustana STEM majors below is provided as a courtesy and was collected as of the date noted above. It is the responsibility of every student to verify this information for themselves with SEVIS. Augustana makes no guarantee that pursuing or completing a Bachelor of Arts degree with one of these majors will qualify any student to extend their stay in the United States following graduation. The sole responsibility for verification of this information with the [Department of Homeland Security](#) lies entirely with the student.

<https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/eligible-cip-codes-for-the-stem-opt-extension>

Augustana Program	Program Code	SEVIS CIP Code*	NOTES
Engineering Physics	ENGR	14.1201	
Biology	BIOL	26.0101	
Biochemistry	BCHM	26.0202	
Data Analytics	DATA	30.3001	called <i>Computational Science</i> by the government
Neuroscience	NSCI	26.1501	
Mathematics	MATH	27.0101	
Applied Mathematics	APMA	27.0301	only offered as second major at Augustana
Chemistry	CHEM/CHAR	40.0501	
Geology	GEOL	40.0601	
Physics	PHYS	40.0801	
Additionally Approved STEM			
Environmental Studies	ENVR/ENVB	03.0103	
Computer Science	CSC	11.0701	

*Augustana’s CIP codes are audited, reviewed and confirmed by the Office of Institutional Research, the Office of the Registrar and academic departments every five years. The student degrees and major(s), along with their corresponding CIP code, are reported as required, to the Department of Education following each term. The Bachelor of Arts degree and corresponding CIP codes for all majors may not be changed or altered once a degree is conferred and reported.