

MEMO

3/1/2023

RE: CIP Code for University of Southern California Marshall School of Business programs:
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Bachelor of Science in Accounting, and Bachelor of
Science in Business of Cinematic Arts, 52.1301 - Management Science, General

Dear USCIS Adjudicator:

During the academic year 2021-2022, the University of Southern California completed a rigorous review of the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration Program and all its specializations (that we refer to as emphases), of the Bachelor of Science in Accounting, and of the Bachelor of Science in Business of Cinematic Arts. This process culminated in June 2022 with the university formally assigning CIP code 52.1301 – Management Science, General to these programs, which is found in the STEM eligible CIP code list: <https://www.ice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/stem-list.pdf/>

The university determined that these programs align best with CIP 52.1301 - Management Science, General, the description of which, according to the U.S. Department of Education (National Center for Education Statistics, 2020 CIP), is as follows: “A general program that focuses on the application of statistical modeling, data warehousing, data mining, programming, forecasting and operations research techniques to the analysis of problems of business organization and performance. Includes instruction in optimization theory and mathematical techniques, data mining, data warehousing, stochastic and dynamic modeling, operations analysis, and the design and testing of prototype systems and evaluation models.”

The revised CIP code was a universal institutional change and affects all students and alumni who graduated from the program. This change was made because it better reflects the content of the curriculum, not as a result of a curricular change. Consequently, all these degrees conferred during the academic year 2021-2022 and later qualify as STEM Designated Program degrees and are eligible for the STEM OPT extension.

We understand that there may be some confusion when a CIP code does not directly mirror the major name as stated on the diploma or transcript. However, we believe that it is not uncommon for a particular major name to differ from the designated CIP coding for the degree.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at vdugprograms@marshall.usc.edu or (213) 740-6422.

Sincerely,

Office of Undergraduate Programs
USC Marshall School of Business

