Selecting appropriate CIP codes for Loyola programs

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What is a CIP Code?

From the [NCES website](#):
The Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) provides a taxonomic scheme that supports the accurate tracking and reporting of fields of study and program completions activity. CIP was originally developed by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) in 1980, with revisions occurring in 1985, 1990, 2000, 2010 and 2020.

Every academic program offered by the university should have a CIP code assigned to it for classification and reporting purposes. A full list of CIP codes can be found [here](#).

Why is a program's CIP code important? **Why do I care about what a CIP code is?**

CIP codes are reported to the Integrated Post-Secondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), National Science Foundation (NSF), Higher Learning Commission (HLC), and more.

Accurately reported CIP codes allow us to make enrollment and completion comparisons across institutions of higher learning and to track education trends over time. The use of CIP codes is how we compare our performance in specific areas with that of our current and aspirational peers.

Reporting of CIP Codes to these agencies has implications in other reporting such as their use in:

- Carnegie classification,
- Illinois legislative grants for high demand programs (if applicable),
- US News and World Report classification,
- Analyzing labor market supply-demand conditions and trends (the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in the US Department of Labor and NCES worked together to create the CIP-SOC Crosswalk),
- Making education and training program funding decisions, including expansion or contraction of program offerings,
- Developing and maintaining education and training curriculum,
- Information and guidance to individuals in making decisions about careers and education or training choices or conducting a job search,
- Identifying STEM fields for grant funding eligibility purposes and other reporting purposes
- Collecting, reporting, and analyzing instructional program data by state agencies, national associations, academic institutions, and employment counseling services

What do the different parts of the CIP code mean?

The CIP code is a 6-digit number (format xx.xxxx) with three different levels:

1) The first two digits represent the broad subject area of the field. This might correspond to a specific school or department at a university.
2) The first four digits indicate which intermediate subfield within that area the field belongs to. These can be thought of as program areas within a department.
3) The full six-digit code designates the specific subject matter of the field. These usually correspond to specific majors, emphasis areas, or areas of concentration.

For example, the CIP Code for Higher Education/Higher Education Administration is **13.0406**.

13 is the CIP designation for the area of Education.
13.04 indicates that this field falls under the educational subarea of Educational Administration and Supervision.
Under the subarea of 13.04, in addition to Higher Education, you'll find more specific field descriptions such as Elementary and Middle School Administration/Principalship (13.0408), Secondary School Administration/Principalship (13.0409), Early Childhood Program Administration (13.0414), and so on. All these fields are considered part of educational administration, and they are distinct from other educational subfields like assessment, curriculum, counseling, etc. But all these subfields fall under Education area in the CIP taxonomy.

CIP codes apply to a field at all levels – certificate, minor, associate's, bachelor's, master's, doctoral, and professional degrees in the same field all share the same CIP code. They are also independent of program method of delivery – a program offered both in person and online should have the same CIP Code.

What should a CIP code reflect? (How do I pick the right CIP code for my program?)

Selecting a CIP code for a newly proposed or revised program will become part of the academic planning process at Loyola.
The CIP code should reflect:

1. Primary area of focus (Academic plan code)
2. Subarea (Academic subplan, if applicable)
3. Academic Program Learning outcomes
4. Whether the program is interdisciplinary or not (Interdisciplinary program codes begin with 30.)
5. Whether the program has a STEM designation or not

Please note that with the CIP 2020 update, some CIP 2010 codes may have been retired or merged. The CIP 2010 to 2020 Crosswalk lists the changes which have been made to existing codes. New codes have been introduced for increasingly popular fields, such as Data Science (30.7001), which in the past may have been reported using a Computer Science or Business CIP code.

What is a STEM CIP code?

 From the ICE.gov website:

The [U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) STEM Designated Degree Program List](#) (updated as of July 12, 2023) 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 one "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)."

Resources

1. CIP Code Training - [NCES | Introduce the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) 2020 (ed.gov)](#)
2. CIP FAQs - [CIP user site (ed.gov)](#)
3. CIP 2020 Cross walk - [CIP user site (ed.gov)](#)
4. [CIP Wizard (ed.gov)](#)
5. CIP FAQ - [CIP user site (ed.gov)](#)
6. [CIP Code Walkthrough Tutorial Video](#)