

2022 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Persons in family/household	Poverty guideline
1	\$13,590
2	18,310
3	23,030
4	27,750
5	32,470
6	37,190
7	41,910
8	46,630

For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$4,720 for each additional person.

2022 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR ALASKA

Persons in family/household	Poverty guideline
1	\$16,990
2	22,890
3	28,790
4	34,690
5	40,590
6	46,490
7	52,390
8	58,290

For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$5,900 for each additional person.

2022 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR HAWAII

Persons in family/household	Poverty guideline
1	\$15,630
2	21,060
3	26,490
4	31,920
5	37,350
6	42,780
7	48,210
8	53,640

For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$5,430 for each additional person.

Separate poverty guideline figures for Alaska and Hawaii reflect Office of Economic Opportunity administrative practice beginning in the 1966–1970 period. (Note that the Census Bureau poverty thresholds—the version of the poverty measure used for statistical purposes—have never had separate figures for Alaska and Hawaii.) The poverty guidelines are not defined for Puerto Rico or other outlying jurisdictions. In cases in which a Federal program using the poverty guidelines serves any of those jurisdictions, the Federal office that

administers the program is generally responsible for deciding whether to use the contiguous-states-and-DC guidelines for those jurisdictions or to follow some other procedure.

Due to confusing legislative language dating back to 1972, the poverty guidelines sometimes have been mistakenly referred to as the “OMB” (Office of Management and Budget) poverty guidelines or poverty line. In fact, OMB has never issued the guidelines; the guidelines are issued each year by the Department of Health and Human Services. The poverty guidelines may be formally referenced as “the poverty guidelines updated periodically in the **Federal Register** by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2).”

Some federal programs use a percentage multiple of the guidelines (for example, 125 percent or 185 percent of the guidelines), as noted in relevant authorizing legislation or program regulations. Non-Federal organizations that use the poverty guidelines under their own authority in non-Federally-funded activities also may choose to use a percentage multiple of the guidelines.

The poverty guidelines do not make a distinction between farm and non-farm families, or between aged and non-aged units. (Only the Census Bureau poverty thresholds have separate figures for aged and non-aged one-person and two-person units.)

This notice does not provide definitions of such terms as “income” or “family” as there is considerable variation of these terms among programs that use the poverty guidelines. The legislation or regulations governing each program define these terms and determine how the program applies the poverty guidelines. In cases where legislation or regulations do not establish these definitions, the entity that administers or funds the program is responsible to define such terms as “income” and “family.” Therefore, questions such as net or gross income, counted or excluded income, or household size should be directed to the entity that administers or funds the program.

Dated: January 18, 2022.

Xavier Becerra,

Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Meeting of the National Vaccine Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Office of Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS Policy, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: As stipulated by the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is hereby giving notice that the National Vaccine Advisory Committee (NVAC) will hold a virtual meeting. The meeting will be open to the public and public comment will be heard during the meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held February 10–11, 2022. The confirmed meeting times and agenda will be posted on the NVAC website at <http://www.hhs.gov/nvpo/nvac/meetings/index.html> as soon as they become available.

ADDRESSES: Instructions regarding attending this meeting will be posted online at: <http://www.hhs.gov/nvpo/nvac/meetings/index.html> at least one week prior to the meeting. Pre-registration is required for those who wish to attend the meeting or participate in public comment. Please register at <http://www.hhs.gov/nvpo/nvac/meetings/index.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ann Aikin, Acting Designated Federal Officer, at the Office of Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS Policy, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Mary E. Switzer Building, Room L618, 330 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20024. Email: nvac@hhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to Section 2101 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300aa–1), the Secretary of HHS was mandated to establish the National Vaccine Program to achieve optimal prevention of human infectious diseases through immunization and to achieve optimal prevention against adverse reactions to vaccines. The NVAC was established to provide advice and make recommendations to the Director of the National Vaccine Program on matters related to the Program’s responsibilities. The Assistant Secretary for Health serves as Director of the National Vaccine Program.

The NVAC celebrates 35 years and will kick off the meeting reflecting on accomplishments and outling

opportunities to advance the vaccine system in the United States. The NVAC will hear presentations on global immunization, vaccinating the workforce, correlates of protection, data exchange and vaccine safety. Please note that agenda items are subject to change, as priorities dictate. Information on the final meeting agenda will be posted prior to the meeting on the NVAC website: <http://www.hhs.gov/nvpo/nvac/index.html>.

Members of the public will have the opportunity to provide comment at the NVAC meeting during the public comment period designated on the agenda. Public comments made during the meeting will be limited to three minutes per person to ensure time is allotted for all those wishing to speak. Individuals are also welcome to submit written comments in advance. Written comments should not exceed three pages in length. Individuals submitting comments should email their written comments or their request to provide a comment during the meeting to nvac@hhs.gov at least five business days prior to the meeting.

Dated: January 9, 2022.

Ann Aikin,

Acting Designated Federal Official, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

[Docket No. ICEB-2021-0011]

RIN 1653-ZA23

Update to the Department of Homeland Security STEM Designated Degree Program List

AGENCY: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE); Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

SUMMARY: This notice announces that the Secretary of Homeland Security (Secretary) is amending the DHS STEM Designated Degree Program List by adding 22 qualifying fields of study and a corresponding Department of Education Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code for each. The list is used to determine whether a degree obtained by certain F-1 nonimmigrant students following the completion of a program of study qualifies as a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) degree as determined by DHS, for the F-1 student to be eligible to apply for a 24-month extension of their post-completion optional practical training (OPT).

DATES: DHS adopts the list announced in this notice as of January 21, 2022.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sharon Snyder, Unit Chief, Policy and Response Center Unit, Student and Exchange Visitor Program; U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 500 12th Street SW, Stop 5600, Washington, DC 20536-5600; email: sevp@ice.dhs.gov, telephone: (703) 603-3400. This is not a toll-free number. Program information is available at <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

What action is DHS taking under this notice?

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is updating the list of STEM fields of study that fall within the regulatory definition of “STEM field.” The list, known as the DHS STEM Designated Degree Program List (“STEM list”),¹ is used to determine whether a degree obtained by an F-1 nonimmigrant student qualifies as a STEM degree, as required for the F-1 nonimmigrant student to be eligible to apply for a STEM OPT extension. Similar prior lists were updated through Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) Broadcast Messages in 2011² and 2012.³ The current list was established in connection with a Final Rule issued in 2016. In 2021, DHS updated the list to include technical changes to CIP codes made by the Department of Education’s National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) as part of NCES’s 2020 CIP update.⁴

Why is DHS taking this action?

In 2016, DHS published a Final Rule providing a 24-month extension of OPT for F-1 nonimmigrant students who majored in a designated STEM field of study. *See* 81 FR 13039 (Mar. 11, 2016) (“*Improving and Expanding Training Opportunities for F-1 Nonimmigrant Students With STEM Degrees and Cap-Gap Relief for All Eligible F-1 Students*”) (“2016 STEM Rule”). The 2016 STEM Rule stated that DHS will continue to accept for consideration suggested additions or deletions to the STEM list and may publish updates to

¹ ICE, DHS STEM Designated Degree Program List, <https://www.ice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/stem-list.pdf> (last visited Nov. 9, 2021).

² *See* SEVP, “Broadcast Message 1105-02: Additions to the STEM-Designated Degree Program List,” May 12, 2011.

³ *See* SEVP, “Broadcast Message 1204-07: Additions to the STEM-Designated Degree Program List,” May 11, 2012.

⁴ *See* SEVP, “Broadcast Message 2102-01: Updated DHS STEM Designated Degree Program List Available,” Feb. 1, 2021, available at <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/bcm2102-01.pdf> (last visited Nov. 9, 2021).

the STEM list in the **Federal Register**. Since publication of the 2016 STEM Rule, DHS has received from the public 97 suggested new fields of study to add to the STEM list. DHS has not received any input from the public suggesting fields to remove. DHS is now announcing that a number of the fields of study submitted for consideration will be added to the STEM list.⁵ Nominators may resubmit a nomination with additional supporting views and evidence at any time if their original submission was not addressed in this notice.

What is OPT and STEM OPT?

OPT is one type of work permission available to certain F-1 nonimmigrant students. It allows students (except those in English language training programs) to obtain real-world work experience directly related to their field of study.

The STEM OPT extension is a 24-month extension of OPT available to F-1 nonimmigrant students who have completed 12 months of OPT and received a degree in an approved STEM field of study as designated by the STEM list.

Who may be impacted by this notice?

This notice may impact qualifying F-1 nonimmigrant students who seek a 24-month extension of post-completion OPT.

Where can I find the STEM list?

The STEM list can be found in the docket for this notice and on the SEVP website.⁶

What authority does DHS have to make changes to the STEM list?

The Secretary has broad authority to administer and enforce the nation’s immigration laws. *See generally* 6 U.S.C. 202; Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, as amended (INA), Sec. 103, 8 U.S.C. 1103. Section 101(a)(15)(F)(i) of the INA establishes the F-1 nonimmigrant classification for individuals who wish to enter the United States temporarily and solely for the purpose of pursuing a full course of study at an academic institution or accredited language training school certified by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s (ICE) SEVP. *See* INA Sec. 101(a)(15)(F)(i), 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(F)(i). The INA provides the

⁵ While the 2016 STEM Rule provided for “additions or deletions to the list,” no deletions will be made at this time.

⁶ *See* SEVP, Eligible CIP Codes for the STEM OPT Extension, <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/stem-opt-hub/additional-resources/eligible-cip-codes-for-the-stem-opt-extension> (last visited Nov. 9, 2021).