

Cornell University Student Assembly

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Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #39

Making Cornell's Economics program STEM-certified

ABSTRACT: Changing the certification of the Arts and Sciences Economics major to CIP code 45.0603 (Econometrics and Quantitative Economics) to allow 2-year OPT extension for international students.

Sponsored by: Christopher Schott '18

Whereas, CIP code 45.0603 is a STEM-certified program¹, while Cornell's current Economics major CIP code 45.0601 (Economics, General) is not;

Whereas, international graduates of STEM-certified majors can apply for a two-year extension of their OPT (Operational Practical Training) work authorization, granting them a total of three years of work authorization²;

Whereas, non-STEM majors, including Cornell's Economics major, grant only one year of work authorization³;

Whereas, the opportunity of a three-year work authorization conveys enormous benefit upon the employment prospects of international students, including additional opportunities to apply for H1-B visas, increased employability and extended professional training;

Whereas, Cornell's Economics program meets the general description of the 45.0603 code:

“A program that focuses on the systematic study of mathematical and statistical analysis of economic phenomena and problems. Includes instruction in economic statistics, optimization theory, cost/benefit analysis, price theory, economic modeling, and economic forecasting and evaluation.”⁴

Whereas, our peer institutions Brown, NYU, Princeton, MIT, Yale, Columbia, Williams, Pomona, Wellesley and Wisconsin-Madison have all recently recertified their Economics majors to CIP code 45.0603 (Econometrics and Quantitative Economics)⁵

Whereas, Cornell's Economics program has identical or nearly identical quantitative course requirements to those of its peer institutions⁶,

¹ According to the US Department of Education

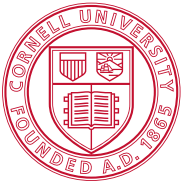
² According to the Department of Homeland Security

³ Ibid

⁴ As found on the US Dept. of Ed. website under CIP code 45.0603 or Appendix D (Appendix p.10)

⁵ See Appendix A (Appendix p.1)

⁶ See Appendix B (Appendix p. 3)



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Whereas, Cornell's Economics major certainly possesses a more technical curriculum than STEM-certified majors such as New York University's "Media, Culture and Communications"⁷;

Whereas, the recertification of our peer institutions' Economics programs has involved a mere technical change in the description of the Economics program;

Whereas, Columbia University achieved aforementioned recertification of their Financial Economics program within 3 months (September 2017 – December 2017) and of their general Economics program in 5 months (September 2017 – February 2018)⁸;

Whereas, the Dean of Faculty, Dean Van Loan, has deemed this initiative "a nice idea"⁹

Whereas, Professor Blume, Chair of the Cornell Economics program, said of this initiative: "[It] seems like something we should attempt"¹⁰

Be it finally resolved, that President Martha Pollack, Provost Kotlikoff and Dean Ritter apply to the New York State Department of Education, in cooperation with Economics department faculty such as Professor Blume and Professor O'Donoghue, to initiate the recertification of the Cornell Economics program to CIP code 45.0603 (Econometrics and Quantitative Economics) as soon as possible.

Christopher Schott '18
International Student Liaison At-Large

(Reviewed by: Academic Policy Committee, 7-0-1, 03/04/2018)

⁷ See Appendix C (Appendix p. 4)

⁸ See Appendix E (Appendix p. 11)

⁹ See Appendix D (Appendix p.10)

¹⁰ *ibid*