

CIP Code Session Cauldron Questions & Answers

October 31, 2025

- **If we want to propose a certificate that would be in a more specific CIP code than our general major, are those students still counted as our students?**

Students declare programs, minors, certificates, and badges independently. Enrollment and graduation numbers are based on what an advisor has selected as program the student is enrolled in. If a program (major) and certificate share the same CIP code, and a student is enrolled in the program, the student is NOT counted as enrolled in the certificate. The student has not declared the certificate. Schools get credit for everything they produce, including certificates.

- **For schools that are more interdisciplinary in nature, how do schools expand beyond their standard CIP? [This is regarding faculty qualifications with CIP.]**

For standard qualifications, each school identifies what CIP codes are terminal degrees for a course prefix. *Standard faculty qualifications are based on course prefix, not overall course CIP.* The list of CIP codes (for faculty credentials) that qualify faculty (standard qualification) are listed for each course prefix. [See image below from the [Institutional Research](#) Faculty & Staff data for an example.] The school may edit the list of CIP codes at any time.

Standard Qualifications of Faculty (Terminal Degrees)			
College	School	Discipline	Course Prefix
(All)	School of Mathematics ...	Chemistry and Bioche...	CHE
Course Prefix	Course Pre..	Terminal Degree	CIP Code
CHE	Chemistry a nd Biochemi stry	PhD	14.4401
			26.0202
			26.0210
			26.0299
			40.05
			40.10

Faculty may also be qualified to teach a course through an alternative qualification. Alternative qualifications are used when a faculty member does not have a graduate degree in one of the listed CIP codes for a course prefix. See the next question for more information. See the [Faculty Credentials & Qualifications Manual](#) for more information.

- **Is there some kind of checklist for what counts for alternative qualification?**

There is not a checklist for alternative qualifications, because each case for alternative qualification is unique. For an alternative qualification, the school must make a case for why a faculty member is qualified to teach the course. Evidence of qualification must be provided to be documented for SACSCOC. Evidence that a faculty member is alternatively qualified may include work experience, publications, industry/professional certifications, etc. See the [Faculty Credentials & Qualifications Manual](#) for more information.