

Univ. Course Inventory (CBM003)

Criteria for Assigning Texas CIP Codes

Each course in an inventory is assigned a Texas CIP code which corresponds to the subject matter of that course. CIP codes reflect the content of the course and not the department in which the course is offered or the discipline of the students who take the course. For example, an introductory calculus class taught in the Chemical Engineering department is accurately coded 27.0101.00 (Mathematics) even if the course is taught exclusively to engineering students by an engineering professor.

Texas CIP codes are an extension of the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) taxonomy that is part of the National Center for Education Statistics' (NCES) Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). IPEDS uses CIP to collect and report higher education data from across the country. The NCES publication *Classification of Instructional Programs* describes the taxonomy and provides definitions of the national codes (<http://www.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/>). A listing and definitions of Texas CIP codes are available on-line at <http://www.txhighereddata.org/Interactive/CIP/>.

National CIP codes are six digits in length. Texas CIP codes have an additional two-digit extension which can further refine the subject matter in question. The 10-digit Texas CIP code consists of the 8-digit Texas CIP code plus the 2-digit default funding code assigned to that CIP code.

When an institution assigns a CIP code to a new course, it meets part of its statutory obligation to inform the Coordinating Board of the content of all courses it is offering. Institutions are expected to make their best effort at assigning a code that accurately reflects the content of the course. Coordinating Board staff periodically review the CIP codes assigned to courses. Staff may make changes to codes or ask institutions for more information about the coding of courses where a coding seems inconsistent with the Texas CIP taxonomy or where courses are being coded in a way which is inconsistent with the way similar courses are coded statewide.

Some helpful hints for coding courses:

- When more than one code could logically be used, use the code which is most specific to the subject matter. The areas most likely to contain redundant codes are Agriculture, Business, Education, and Home Economics.
- The specific activity being covered in the course is considered more specific than the place where, or group to which, the activity will be done. Education, in particular, divides subject matter by level of the recipient of the education (e.g., Secondary Education) and then by specific subject (e.g., Science Education). A course in Teaching History in the Elementary School would be coded History Education and not Elementary Education.
- Courses in Special Education and in Early Childhood Education should be coded with those codes and not by specific subjects.

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- The CIP code options may be in very different sections of the taxonomy. For instance, a course in Restaurant Management and Food Service may more appropriately be coded 12.0504.00 16 Restaurant, Culinary, and Catering Management/Manager or 19.0505.00 07 Foodservice Systems Administration/Management, depending on what is actually taught in the course.
- The history, philosophy, or sociology of a discipline is coded with the discipline and not with History, Philosophy, or Sociology.
- Courses for interdisciplinary programs which are not themselves interdisciplinary are coded in the specific discipline. For instance, a course in Native American Social Systems would be coded as Sociology and not American Indian Studies, since it is only about the sociology of Native Americans.
- In Technology and similar codes, the actual function listed in the definition should be considered and not the parts that speak of the occupation of the graduate.
- Use only the default formula funding rate that is listed in the Texas CIP codes taxonomy for the particular CIP code you are using. Using a rate other than the default will result in an error. Changes to the default rate must be requested specifically from the Coordinating Board staff.

Some confusion over coding comes from the fact that the taxonomy is used to identify the subject matter of degree and certificate programs as well as the subject matter of individual courses. This confusion leads to using factors other than the subject matter of the course to determine the code. Some of these factors are:

- the program to which the course will be applied
- the department offering the course
- the discipline of the professor offering the course
- the major of the student taking the course
- the role and scope of the institution

In a few instances, the formula funding code assigned to the Texas CIP code may be inappropriate for the course. In such a case, the course should continue to be assigned the most appropriate CIP code. The issue of funding then may be raised with the Educational Data Center, which has responsibility for the funding codes.