



College of
Business
Administration

September 16, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

As of March 21, 2016 The University of Akron Master of Arts Program in Economics was approved as a federal STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) program.

The Department of Homeland Security recognizes graduates of this program residing on student visas as eligible for an optional practical training (OPT) extension. While regular students are able to remain in the country and receive training through work experience for up to 12 months, students who graduate from a designated STEM degree program, such as our MSM in Information Systems program, can remain for an additional 24 months on an OPT STEM extension.

A careful review by the graduate faculty of the Department of Economics concluded that the current curriculum of the MA program is consistent with the program definition of the Econometrics and Quantitative Economics program classification as described in the CIPs website (CIP Code 45.0603 - Econometrics and Quantitative Economics). This classification will also help the department attract more students to our graduate program.

We are proud to be able to contribute to regional economic development by attracting the best and brightest minds from around the world, and then preparing them to be significant additions to organizations seeking individual with data analytic skills at the graduate level.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Nelson".

Michael A. Nelson, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair, Department of Economics
nelson2@uakron.edu
330.972.7939