

Types of Degrees and Certificates



Certificates

If you're looking to develop a certain skill or be trained for a specific job, you can typically earn a certificate in two years or less. Certificates can be earned at community colleges and technical and vocational colleges. Many four-year colleges also offer certificates.

Undergraduate Degrees

Transfer Degree

- A.A. – Associate of Arts
- A.A.T. – Associate of Arts in Teaching
- A.E.S. – Associate of Engineering Science
- A.F.A. – Associate of Fine Arts
- A.S.– Associate of Science

If you plan to complete the first two years at a community college and then transfer to a four-year college or university to complete your bachelor's degree you should complete one of the degrees listed above. These degrees require courses that satisfy general education requirements as well as introductory courses in the intended major. **Always talk to an advisor at your current school and the school you plan to attend before registering for courses.**

Associate of Applied Science Degree (A.A.S.)

If you plan on entering a technical or vocational field, you may be interested in working toward an Associate of Applied Science degree. All community colleges and some four-year institutions offer A.A.S. degrees in a variety of career areas. These degrees provide students with the skills needed for employment and can usually be earned in two years. If a particular career program is not offered at your local community college you may be able to complete that program at a neighboring community college through a Cooperative Agreement. Some colleges and universities accept credits from an A.A.S. degree toward your bachelor's degree. **Always talk to an advisor at your current school and the school you plan to attend before registering for courses.**

Bachelor's Degree

If you attend a four-year college, you will probably be working toward a bachelor's degree. Bachelor's degrees are also referred to as undergraduate degrees. They require that you take a core of general education courses, including communications, humanities, math, science, and social sciences. In addition, you will focus on one main subject area as your "major." There are different types of bachelor's degrees, such as the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) and Bachelor of Science (B.S.). B.A. degrees are usually earned in humanities and social science fields. B.S. degrees are awarded to those studying in scientific and technical fields. Some colleges offer additional degrees, such as the Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) or the Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.). A bachelor's degree is necessary if you plan to work toward an advanced degree, such as a master's, doctorate or professional degree. plan to work in a high-level profession, such as a psychologist or college professor.

Graduate Degrees

Master's Degree

A master's degree is an advanced degree following a bachelor's degree. It usually takes less time to attain (one to two years, depending if you're a full-time or part-time student), but demands a higher standard of knowledge and dedication than a bachelor's degree. Most master's degrees are built on extensive research and intricate analysis. You may be interested in working toward a master's degree to meet certain job requirements, to further your knowledge, or to advance your career and earning potential.

Doctoral Degree

A doctoral degree is a high-level degree that can follow a bachelor's or master's degree. This type of degree is work-intensive and usually requires full-time attention. Most are earned by researching a unique and specific topic under a professor's supervision. Earning a doctorate could take anywhere from two to five years, or even longer. You may be interested in pursuing a doctorate if you plan to work in a high-level profession, such as a psychologist or college professor.



Professional Degree

A professional degree is required for work in fields such as law and medicine. These fields have specific schools of study that concentrate on a particular area of expertise. In order to attend, you must have a bachelor's degree. The study will then be focused on earning the specific professional degree for your field of study.



Some of this information was obtained from www.collegezone.com.