

Credential Templates – United States of America

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Revised: September 2019

Country: U.S. (United States of America)
High School Diploma

Category: Secondary

Credential Actual Name:

High School Diploma

Credential Alternate Actual Name(s):

Secondary Diploma

Diploma of Graduation

Diploma

Certificate

Note: These are examples of high school diplomas and do not constitute a complete list of such credentials.

Time Period Credential Offered: Current

Issuing Body: High schools, state departments of education, state boards of education, school districts

Admission Requirements:

- Completion of elementary school (8 years of schooling)

Program Description:

- Four-year senior secondary education program

Provides Access to in the Home Country:

- Employment

- Admission into four-year universities and colleges, two-year colleges, and postsecondary vocational and technical institutions

IQAS Recommendations:

Generally compares to the completion of a High School Diploma.

Course Equivalencies:

In the U.S. a year-long high school course is worth 1 Carnegie unit (representing 120 instructional hours). In Alberta, a year-long high school course is worth 5 credits (representing 125 instructional hours).

English/Language Arts

High school students in 39 states and the District of Columbia (2008) have to complete 4 units of English.

Subject	Total Units	IQAS Comparison
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English and related courses (e.g. Literature, Composition, Communications)	4	English Language Arts - 30 Level*
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*English Language Arts 30-1 or 30-2 may be awarded according to the titles and contents of the 4 units of English and related subjects completed.

Mathematics

High school students in 35 states and the District of Columbia (2008) have to complete 3 or more units of Mathematics, typically Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. Some students complete 4 units, including a higher-level course such as Advanced Statistics, Pre-Calculus and Calculus. Students may also take an accelerated track by completing Algebra I in Grade 8.

Subject	Total Units	IQAS Comparison
Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II	3	Mathematics 30-2
Geometry, Algebra II, a higher-level course (e.g. Pre-calculus) [accelerated track]	3	Mathematics 30-1
Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, a higher-level course (e.g. Pre-calculus)	4	Mathematics 30-1
Calculus	1	Mathematics 31

Science

High school students in 30 states and the District of Columbia (2008) have to complete 3 or more units of Science. Courses include earth and space science, life science (Biology), physical sciences (Chemistry, Physics) and engineering/technology. Science curricula tend to focus on breadth instead of depth.

Subject	Total Units	IQAS Comparison
2 non-consecutive science courses (e.g. Biology + Chemistry)	2	Individual 20-Level courses (e.g. Biology 20 and Chemistry 20)
2 consecutive science courses (e.g. Biology, Chemistry, Physics)	2	Individual 30-Level courses (e.g. Biology 30, Chemistry 30 or Physics 30)
3 non-consecutive science courses (e.g. Biology + Chemistry + Physics)	3	Science 30 or individual 20-Level courses (e.g. Biology 20, Chemistry 20 and Physics 20)

IQAS Rationale:

School education in the U.S. spans 12 academic years or grades. Depending on the state, school district, and school, the 12 grades may be organized into various stages. High school generally refers to the last four years (Grades 9-12), when students select courses based on what they plan to do after graduation - going to college or entering the workforce. High schools may use a tracking or labelling system that identifies students, depending on their course-taking patterns, as college prep, general, vocational, and special education. The majority of students fall into the college prep track. In 2009, the immediate college enrolment rate - percentage of high school graduates who immediately enrol in a two- or four-year college - was 70 per cent, compared with 67 per cent in 1997 and 51 per cent in 1975.

The Carnegie unit is a commonly used time-based reference for measuring educational attainment. One Carnegie unit of high school credit may be earned by having a total of 120 contact hours in one subject—meeting 4 or 5 times a week for 40 to 60 minutes, for 36 to 40 weeks each year.

In a typical academic or college prep track, students complete the following courses in Grade 9-12:
4 units of English

3-4 units of math (usually algebra I, geometry, algebra II, and a higher level math)

- 3 units of science
- 3 units of history/social studies
- 1 unit of health and physical education
- 3-4 units of electives

About 82 per cent of high school graduates in 2005 completed at least the following:

- 4 units of English
- 2 units of math
- 2 units of science
- 3 units of history/social studies,

About 65 per cent of high school graduates in 2005 completed at least the following:

- 4 units of English
- 3 units of math
- 3 units of science
- 3 units of history/social studies

States and in a few cases school districts determine academic requirements for graduation from public high schools. These usually involve 20-24 Carnegie units of courses, including minimum units of core academic subjects (e.g. 4 units of English, 3-4 units of math, 3 units of science, and 3-4 units of social studies). About half of the states also require students to pass an exit examination in order to graduate. These examinations vary in content, format and rigor.

A high school diploma gives access to further education in four-year colleges and universities as well as two-year community or junior colleges and technical or vocational institutions. The high school courses required for admission into higher education institutions depend on the institution and program. Many higher education institutions also require applicants to submit standardized test scores such as SAT and ACT.

Refer to the *International Education Guides: the U.S.* for more information on high school diploma, including sample documents.

Conclusion

High school education in the U.S. generally refers to the last four years of school education (Grades 9-12). Graduation requirements vary by state but generally involve the completion of at least 20 Carnegie units of courses (representing a total of 2,400 instructional hours) including minimum units in core academic courses. A high school diploma allows an individual to seek employment or admission into two- or four-year colleges and universities. In Alberta the high school diploma represents three years of study (Grades 10-12); students must complete at least 100 credits of courses (representing a total of approximately 2,500 instructional hours) including core academic subjects. Based on the above information and placement recommendations of other evaluation resources, IQAS concludes the High School Diploma from the U.S. generally compares to the completion of Grade 12.

Grading:

Students receive classroom grades to describe their academic performance in each subject area. The grading system may be based on a numeric or letter scale, which can be converted into grade points. There are variations of how numeric marks are converted to letter grade and grade points; for example, schools may have 60, 65 or 70 per cent as the minimum pass mark.

Mark			Letter Grade	Grade Point	Descriptor	IQAS (%)
70% Pass	65% Pass	60% Pass				
93-100	95-100	90-100	A	4	Excellent	96
85-92	85-94	80-89	B	3	Good	74
78-84	75-84	70-79	C	2	Average	62
70-77	65-74	60-69	D	1	Below Average	52
0-69	0-64	0-59	F	0	Fail	<50

Country: U.S. (United States of America)
Associate Degree

Category: University

Credential Actual Name:

Associate of Arts (AA) / Associate of Science (AS)

Credential Alternate Actual Name(s):

Associate of Applied Business (AAB)
Associate of Applied Science (AAS)
Associate of Applied Technology (AAT)
Associate of Arts in Teaching (AAT)
Associate of Business Administration (ABA)
Associate of Electrical Engineering Technology (AEET)
Associate of Electronics (AE)
Associate of Engineering (AE/AEng)
Associate of Engineering Technology (AET/AEngT)
Associate of Forestry (AF)
Associate of General Studies (AGS)
Associate of Industrial Technology (AIT)
Associate of Nursing (AN)/Associate Degree Nurse/Nursing (ADN)
Associate of Occupational Studies (AOS)
Associate of Science in Computer Assisted Design (AS-CAD)
Associate of Technology (AT)

Note: These are examples of associate degrees and do not constitute a complete list of such credentials.

Time Period Credential Offered: Current

Issuing Body: Two-year and four-year universities and colleges accredited by one of the six regional accrediting bodies:

- Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools: Middle States Commission on Higher Education
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges: Commission on Institutions of Higher Education
- North Central Association of Colleges and Schools: The Higher Learning Commission
- Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools: Commission on Colleges
- Western Association of Schools and Colleges: Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities

Admission Requirements:

- High School Diploma
- Some programs require standardized test scores such as SAT and ACT

Program Description:

- Two-year associate degree program

Provides Access to in the Home Country:

- Employment

The associate degree is the basic education requirement for entering certain professions such as nursing and engineering technologies.

- Further education

Holders of an associate degree may transfer to a four-year bachelor's degree program in the same or a related field with up to two years of advanced standing.

IQAS Recommendations:

Generally compares to the completion of a two-year postsecondary Diploma

IQAS Rationale:

Admission to an associate degree program is based on a high school diploma, usually with required core academic courses. Colleges and universities typically require 4 units of English, at least 3 units of social studies (history, geography, civics, economics, etc.), 3 years of math and 3 years of science. Some require 2 units of a foreign language. Some institutions and programs may require standardized test scores such as SAT or ACT.

An associate degree generally involves 60 semester credits or 90 quarter credits of study, which can be completed in two years on a fulltime basis. Students with advanced secondary credentials such as AP (Advanced Placement) exam scores, IB (International Baccalaureate) Diploma and dual enrolment courses may be granted transfer credits and/or advanced standing, depending on institutional policy. Successful completion of the program leads to the award of an associate degree. In some programs, typically in career and technical fields, students receive a certificate after completing one year of study.

Associate degrees may serve as the foundation for a bachelor's degree, with programs structured like the first two years of a four-year bachelor's degree program. Many associate degree holders intend to transfer to a bachelor's degree program.

The most common academic associate degrees are the Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS). They tend to have a strong component of general education courses and may have a few courses in a major field of study.

The most common associate degree in career and technical fields is the Associate of Applied Science (AAS). It provides training for entering certain occupations such as nursing, allied health professions, and some business and technology areas. It can also serve as a transfer degree that allows the graduate to enter a bachelor's degree program in the same or a similar field of study. Some applied associate degrees are terminal credentials as no higher level programs are available in those specific areas of study.

Refer to the *International Education Guides: the U.S.* for more information on associate degrees, including sample program structures and documents.

Conclusion

The associate degree requires a high school diploma for admission and involves two years of fulltime study. It gives access to employment and possible admission into bachelor's degree programs with up to two years' transfer of credit. In Alberta, postsecondary diploma programs require a high school diploma for admission and involve at least two years of fulltime study; they give access to employment and possible transfer of credit for admission into bachelor's degree programs.

Based on the above information and placement recommendations of other evaluation resources, IQAS concludes the associate degree from the U.S. generally compares to the completion of a two-year postsecondary Diploma.

Grading:

Most institutions use a letter scale, which can be converted into grade points. Transcripts usually list grade points for each subject and a GPA for each semester or quarter and a cumulative GPA for the entire program.

Higher Education Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Grade Point	Descriptor	IQAS (%)
A	4.0	Excellent	96
B	3.0	Good	74
C	2.0	Average	62
D	1.0	Pass	52
F	0.0	Fail	<50

Some institutions and programs adopt a plus/minus scale to allow for more accurate grading of student performance.

Higher Education Plus/Minus Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Grade Point		IQAS (%)
A+	4.0/4.3	4.00/4.33	96
A	4.0	4.00	88
A-	3.7	3.84	82
B+	3.3	3.33	77
B	3.0	3.00	74
B-	2.7	2.67	70
C+	2.3	2.33	66
C	2.0	2.00	62
C-	1.7	1.67	58
D+	1.3	1.33	55
D	1.0	1.00	52
D-	0.7	0.67	<50
F	0.0	0.00	<50

Country: U.S. (United States of America)
Bachelor's Degree

Category: University

Credential Actual Name:

Bachelor of Arts (BA, AB) / Bachelor of Science (BS, SB)

Credential Alternate Actual Name(s):

Bachelor of Business (BB)/Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA)

Bachelor of Science in Business (BSB)

Bachelor of Computer Science (BCS)/Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (BSCS)

Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA)

Bachelor of Forestry (BF)

Bachelor of Science in Forest Research (BSForRes)

Bachelor of Hebrew Letters (BHL)

Bachelor of Journalism (BJ)

Bachelor of Liberal Studies (BLS)

Bachelor of Literature (BLit)

Bachelor of Marine Science (BMS)

Bachelor of Music (BM)

Bachelor of Nursing (BN)/Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)

Bachelor of Pharmacy (BPharm)

Bachelor of Philosophy (BPhil)

Bachelor of Science in Chemistry (BSCh)

Bachelor of Technology (BT/BTech)

Note: These are examples of bachelor's degrees and do not constitute a complete list of such programs. Please refer to a separate credential template for bachelor's degree in education.

Time Period Credential Offered: Current

Issuing Body: Four-year colleges and universities accredited by one of the six regional accrediting bodies:

- Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools: Middle States Commission on Higher Education
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges: Commission on Institutions of Higher Education
- North Central Association of Colleges and Schools: The Higher Learning Commission
- Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools: Commission on Colleges
- Western Association of Schools and Colleges: Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities

Admission Requirements:

- High School Diploma
- Some programs require standardized test scores such as SAT and ACT

Program Description:

- Four-year (or five-year) undergraduate degree program

Provides Access to in the Home Country:

- Employment
- Admission to graduate programs

IQAS Recommendations:

Generally compares to the completion of a four-year Bachelor's degree.

IQAS Rationale:

Admission to bachelor's degree program is based on a high school diploma with required core academic courses. Colleges and universities typically require 4 units of English, at least 3 units of social studies (history, geography, civics, economics, etc.), 3 years of math and 3 years of science. Some require 2 units of a foreign language. Many institutions and programs require standardized test scores such as SAT or ACT.

Students with advanced secondary credentials such as AP (Advanced Placement) exam scores, IB (International Baccalaureate) Diploma and dual enrolment courses may be granted transfer of credit and/or advanced standing, depending on institutional policy. Students with associate degrees may transfer into the junior year of a bachelor's degree program.

The most common bachelor's degrees awarded are the Bachelor of Science (BS or SB) and Bachelor of Arts (BA or AB). A bachelor's degree usually requires at least 120 semester credits or 180 quarter credits of study, which can be completed in four years on a fulltime basis. Students are expected to achieve a C (2.0) average or better in order to graduate.

More than half of first-time students in four-year institutions complete their bachelor's degrees within six years. Highly qualified and motivated students may complete their degree in less than four years. Some institutions offer accelerated programs that allow students to complete a bachelor's degree in three years; students in such programs follow an accelerated academic calendar but have to meet the same degree requirements as those in traditional four-year programs.

Some institutions offer five-year cooperative (work-study) bachelor's degree programs. A cooperative or co-op plan allows students to combine actual work experience with their college studies. Thus a bachelor's degree that normally requires four years of fulltime study may become a five-year program by incorporating two six-month co-ops. There are also four-year co-op programs where students take shorter vacations in summer.

In most bachelor's degree programs, students must fulfill general education requirements for introductory knowledge in arts and humanities, social sciences, science and technology and

increasingly, diversity and multiculturalism. The general education component usually involves at least 30 semester credits or one year of fulltime study.

In addition to general education requirements, students also concentrate on one or more fields of study called a major. In 2008-09, more than half of the 1.6 million bachelor's degrees awarded in the U.S. were in five fields: business, social sciences and history, health professions and related clinical sciences, education, and psychology.

Some institutions award honours bachelor's degrees, which involve more independent study, require honours courses and a thesis or special project, and may have special admissions requirements. The designation, admission and content standards for honours degrees are set by the awarding institutions.

Refer to the *International Education Guides: the U.S.* for more information on bachelor's degrees, including sample program structures and documents.

Conclusion

The bachelor's degree program requires the High School Diploma or equivalent for admission and involves at least four years of fulltime study. The degree allows an individual to seek employment or admission into graduate degree programs. Based on the above information and placement recommendations of other evaluation resources, IQAS concludes the Bachelor's degree from the U.S. generally compares to the completion of a four-year Bachelor's degree.

Grading:

Most institutions use a letter scale, which can be converted into grade points. Transcripts usually list grade points for each subject and a GPA for each semester or quarter and a cumulative GPA for the entire program.

Higher Education Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Grade Point	Descriptor	IQAS (%)
A	4.0	Excellent	96
B	3.0	Good	74
C	2.0	Average	62
D	1.0	Pass	52
F	0.0	Fail	<50

Some institutions and programs adopt a plus/minus scale to allow for more accurate grading of student performance.

Higher Education Plus/Minus Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Grade Point		IQAS (%)
A+	4.0/4.3	4.00/4.33	96
A	4.0	4.00	88
A-	3.7	3.84	82
B+	3.3	3.33	77
B	3.0	3.00	74
B-	2.7	2.67	70
C+	2.3	2.33	66
C	2.0	2.00	62

C-	1.7	1.67	58
D+	1.3	1.33	55
D	1.0	1.00	52
D-	0.7	0.67	<50
F	0.0	0.00	<50

Country: U.S. (United States of America)
Bachelor's Degree in Education

Category: University-level teaching credentials

Credential Actual Name:

Bachelor of Education (BEEd)

Credential Alternate Actual Name(s):

Bachelor of Science in Education (BSEd)

Bachelor of Arts in Education (BAEd)

Time Period Credential Offered: Current

Issuing Body: Four-year colleges and universities accredited by one of the six regional accrediting bodies:

- Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools: Middle States Commission on Higher Education
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges: Commission on Institutions of Higher Education
- North Central Association of Colleges and Schools: The Higher Learning Commission
- Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools: Commission on Colleges
- Western Association of Schools and Colleges: Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities

Admission Requirements:

- High School Diploma
- Some programs require standardized test scores such as SAT and ACT

Program Description:

Four-year undergraduate degree program

Provides Access to in the Home Country:

- Employment

A bachelor's degree in education is the traditional requirement for obtaining initial teacher certification.

- Admission into university graduate degree programs

IQAS Recommendations:

Generally compares to the completion of a four-year Bachelor of Education degree.

IQAS Rationale:

Bachelor's degree programs for teacher preparation, such as Bachelor of Arts in Education (BAEd), Bachelor of Science in Education (BSEd) and Bachelor of Education (BEEd), involves four years of fulltime study including supervised clinical experience.

Bachelor's degree programs for teacher preparation are designed for students to obtain state certification or licensure in certain grade levels and fields or content areas through the traditional route. In 2008-09, the most common initial certification or licensure areas of traditional programs were elementary education, early childhood education, special education, English language arts, and social studies.

Supervised clinical experience is defined as a series of supervised field experiences (including student teaching) with prekindergarten to Grade 12 students that occur as a sequenced, integral part of the preparation program prior to the candidate becoming the teacher of record. In 2008-2009, among the teacher preparation programs that reported data on supervised clinical experience requirements, the average number of hours of supervised clinical experience required prior to student teaching was 172. The average number of hours required for student teaching was 577.

In Alberta, the basic educational requirement for teacher certification is a four-year bachelor of education degree with a minimum of 48 semester credits (1 and 3/5 years) in professional teacher education coursework including at least 10 weeks of supervised student teacher at an elementary or secondary school.

Refer to *International Education Guide: the U.S.* for sample program structures and documents of the bachelor's degree in education.

Conclusion

The bachelor's degree in education involves four years of fulltime study following the completion of high school. The curriculum includes a combination of academic and professional courses and supervised clinical experience. By meeting additional requirements such as passing state licensing exam, holders of the bachelor's degree in education may obtain initial teacher licensure to teach at specified grade levels and/or content areas. The degree also gives access to further education in master's degree programs in education.

Based on the above information and placement recommendations of other evaluation resources, IQAS concludes the bachelor's degree in education from the U.S. generally compares to the completion of a four-year Bachelor of Education degree.

Grading:

Most institutions use a letter scale, which can be converted into grade points. Transcripts usually list grade points for each subject and a GPA for each semester or quarter and a cumulative GPA for the entire program.

Higher Education Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Grade Point	Descriptor	IQAS (%)
A	4.0	Excellent	96
B	3.0	Good	74

C	2.0	Average	62
D	1.0	Pass	52
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Some institutions and programs adopt a plus/minus scale to allow for more accurate grading of student performance.

Higher Education Plus/Minus Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Grade Point		IQAS (%)
A+	4.0/4.3	4.00/4.33	96
A	4.0	4.00	88
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B	3.0	3.00	74
B-	2.7	2.67	70
C+	2.3	2.33	66
C	2.0	2.00	62
C-	1.7	1.67	58
D+	1.3	1.33	55
D	1.0	1.00	52
D-	0.7	0.67	<50
F	0.0	0.00	<50

Country: U.S. (United States of America)
Juris Doctor (JD)

Category: University

Credential Actual Name:
Juris Doctor (JD)

Credential Alternate Actual Name(s):
Doctor of Jurisprudence (JD)

Time Period Credential Offered: Current

Issuing Body: Law schools approved by the American Bar Association (ABA)
There are 201 ABA-approved law schools in the U.S. as of 2012. Refer to the ABA website (www.americanbar.org) for up-to-date lists.

Admission Requirements:
• Bachelor's degree plus admission test

Program Description:
Regular entry:
• Three-year professional university degree program

Provides Access to in the Home Country:
• Employment
• Admission into professional graduate programs

IQAS Recommendations:
Generally compares to the completion of a first professional university degree in law.

IQAS Rationale:
The first professional degree in law is the Juris Doctor or Doctor of Jurisprudence (JD). Admission is based on a bachelor's degree in any field and the Law School Admission Test (LSAT), a half-day standardized test administered by the Law School Admission Council (LSAC) four times each year. Most Canadian law schools also require applicants to take the LSAT as part of their admission process. Law school admission is highly competitive and based on a number of factors such as quality of undergraduate work, LSAT scores, letters of recommendation, personal statement, extracurricular activities, and employment history.

The Council and Accreditation Committee of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association (ABA) is the nationally recognized accrediting body of legal education in the U.S. The ABA website (www.americanbar.org) lists 201 ABA-

approved law schools in the U.S. About 90 per cent of ABA-approved law schools are part of a larger university. There are also about 37 non-ABA approved law schools in the U.S.

Students in the JD program have to complete a minimum of 90 semester credits, comparable to about three years of fulltime study. The first year usually covers the general background in law with courses such as civil procedure, constitutional law, contracts, criminal law and procedures, legal methods, legal research and writing, and torts. In the next two years students may select from a broad range of courses based on their intended area or specialization of practice. In addition to academic study, the curriculum incorporates practical education components such as moot court exercise in the first year and clinical programs, which allow second- and third-year students to render counselling, undertake legislative drafting, participate in court trials and appeals, and do other legal work for academic credit.

ABA-approved law schools may not offer a JD degree program through distance education. They may grant no more than 4 credit hours of distance education courses in any term and no more than 12 credit hours of distance education courses toward the JD degree.

In order to obtain a license to practice law, JD holders must apply for bar admission through a state board of bar examiners. Each state sets its own criteria for eligibility to take the bar examination or to otherwise qualify for bar admission. All states accept graduation from an ABA-approved law school as meeting the state's education requirement for eligibility to sit for the bar examination. A number of states, such as California, accept other forms of legal education as sufficient.

Conclusion

The JD involves three years of fulltime professional study following the completion of a bachelor's degree. In Canada, the law degree generally requires at least two or three years of university study (though most applicants hold a bachelor's degree), followed by three years of professional study in law. Graduates from JD programs approved by the American Bar Association (ABA) may sit the bar examination in any state to obtain licensure to practice law. Based on the above information and placement recommendations of other evaluation resources, IQAS concludes the JD from an ABA-approved law school generally compares to the completion of a first professional university degree in law (as practiced in the United States of America).

Grading:

Grading scales vary greatly by institution.

ABA-Approved Law Schools by Year

*denotes provisional approval

(www.americanbar.org)

2012

University of La Verne College of Law*

University of Massachusetts School of Law-Dartmouth*

2011

University of California-Irvine School of Law*

2008
Charlotte School of Law
Drexel University Earle Macke School of Law
Elon University School of Law
2007
Phoenix School of Law
2006
Charleston School of Law
Faulkner University, Thomas Goode Jones School of Law
Liberty University School of Law
2005
Atlanta's John Marshall Law School
Western State University College of Law
2004
Florida A&M University College of Law
Florida International University College of Law
2003
University of St. Thomas School of Law (Minnesota)
2002
Ave Maria School of Law
Barry University, Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law
2001
Appalachian School of Law
2000
University of Nevada-Las Vegas, William S. Boyd School of Law
1999
Florida Coastal School of Law
1998
Chapman University School of Law
1996
Thomas Jefferson School of Law
1995
Roger Williams University School of Law
1994
Seattle University School of Law
Texas Wesleyan University School of Law
1992
Quinnipiac University School of Law
1991
University of the District of Columbia, David A. Clarke School of Law
1989
Regent University School of Law
1988
St. Thomas University School of Law (Florida)
Widener University School of Law- Harrisburg
1985
City University of New York School of Law
1984
Georgia State University College of Law
1983
Touro College, Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center
1980
George Mason University School of Law
Mississippi College School of Law
1979
Campbell University, Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law

1978
Northern Illinois University College of Law
Pace University School of Law
Whittier Law School
Yeshiva University, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law
1975
University of Dayton School of Law
Hamline University School of Law
Nova Southeastern University, Shepard Broad Law Center
Thomas M. Cooley Law School
Vermont Law School
Widener University School of Law-Wilmington (Delaware)
1974
Brigham Young University, J. Reuben Clark Law School
University of New Hampshire School of Law
University of Hawai'i, William S. Richardson School of Law
Southern Illinois University School of Law
Western New England College School of Law
1972
University of Baltimore School of Law
Pepperdine University School of Law
1971
Hofstra University School of Law
1970
Lewis and Clark College Law School
Southwestern Law School
1969
Arizona State University, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law
University of Arkansas at Little Rock, William H. Bowen School of Law
Inter American University of Puerto Rico, School of Law
McGeorge School of Law, The University of the Pacific
New England Law | Boston
Northeastern University School of Law
Texas Tech University School of Law
1968
University of California-Davis, School of Law
Florida State University College of Law
1967
Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico School of Law
1965
University of Memphis School of Law
1962
California Western School of Law
University of Maine School of Law
1961
The University of Akron School of Law
University of San Diego School of Law
1960
Duquesne University School of Law
Oklahoma City University College of Law
1959
South Texas College of Law
1958
Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School
1957
Cleveland State University, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law

1956
Golden Gate University School of Law
1954
New York Law School
Northern Kentucky University, Salmon P. Chase College of Law
Villanova University School of Law
1953
Southern University Law Center
Suffolk University Law Center
1951
Gonzaga University School of Law
The John Marshall Law School (Chicago)
Seton Hall University School of Law
1950
University of California-Los Angeles, School of Law
Capital University Law School
University of Houston Law Center
North Carolina Central University School of Law
Rutgers School of Law-Camden
The University of Tulsa College of Law
1949
Samford University, Cumberland School of Law
Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law
1948
The University of New Mexico School of Law
Ohio Northern University-Claude W. Pettit College of Law
St. Mary's University School of Law
1945
University of Puerto Rico School of Law
1944
Indiana University School of Law-Indianapolis
1941
Detroit College of Law (now Michigan State University College of Law)
University of Miami School of Law
Rutgers School of Law - Newark
1940
American University, Washington College of Law
1939
University of California-Hastings, School of Law
University of Toledo College of Law
1938
Willamette University College of Law
William Mitchell College of Law
1937
Brooklyn Law School
Santa Clara University School of Law
St. John's University School of Law
Wayne State University Law School
1936
Chicago-Kent College of Law, Illinois Institute of Technology
Fordham University School of Law
University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law
University at Buffalo Law School
Wake Forest University School of Law
1935
Loyola Law School-Los Angeles

University of San Francisco School of Law
1933
University of Connecticut School of Law
University of Detroit Mercy School of Law
Temple University, James E. Beasley School of Law
1932
Boston College Law School
College of William and Mary, Marshall-Wythe Law School
1931
Baylor University, Sheila & Walter Umphrey Law Center
Duke University School of Law
Howard University School of Law
University of Louisville, Louis D. Brandeis School of Law
Loyola University - New Orleans College of Law
Dickinson School of Law (now Pennsylvania State University, The Dickinson School of Law)
1930
Albany Law School
The University of Arizona, James E. Rogers College of Law
University of Georgia School of Law
University of Maryland School of Law
University of Mississippi School of Law
New York University School of Law
Stetson University School of Law
1929
Valparaiso University School of Law
1928
University of Richmond, T.C. Williams School of Law
1927
Southern Methodist University, Dedman School of Law
University of Utah, S.J. Quinney College of Law
1926
The University of Alabama School of Law
The University of Arkansas of Law-Fayetteville
Louisiana State University, Paul M. Hebert Law Center
1925
Boston University School of Law
The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law
DePaul University School of Law
University of Florida, Fredric G. Levin College of Law
University of Idaho College of Law
University of Kentucky College of Law
Loyola University-Chicago School of Law
Marquette University Law School
Mercer University, Water F. George School of Law
University of Notre Dame Law School
University of South Carolina School of Law
The University of Tennessee College of Law
Tulane University School of Law
Vanderbilt University Law School
1924
Creighton University School of Law
Georgetown University Law Center
Saint Louis University School of Law
University of Southern California, Gould School of Law
University of Washington School of Law
1923

University of California-Berkeley, College of Law
Case Western Reserve University School of Law
University of Chicago Law School
University of Cincinnati College of Law
University of Colorado Law School
Columbia University Law School
Cornell University Law School
University of Denver Sturm College of Law
Drake University Law School
Emory University School of Law
The George Washington University Law School
Harvard University Law School
University of Illinois College of Law
Indiana University School of Law-Bloomington
University of Iowa College of Law
University of Kansas School of Law
University of Michigan Law School
University of Minnesota Law School
University of Missouri-Columbia, School of Law
The University of Montana School of Law
University of Nebraska College of Law
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law
University of North Dakota School of Law
Northwestern University School of Law
The Ohio State University, Michael E. Moritz College of Law
University of Oklahoma College of Law
University of Oregon School of Law
University of Pennsylvania Law School
University of Pittsburgh School of Law
University of South Dakota School of Law
Stanford University Law School
Syracuse University College of Law
The University of Texas School of Law
University of Virginia School of Law
Washburn University School of Law
Washington and Lee University School of Law
Washington University School of Law
West Virginia University College of Law
University of Wisconsin Law School
University of Wyoming College of Law
Yale University Law School

Country: U.S. (United States of America)
First Degrees – Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine

Category: University

Credential Actual Name:

Doctor of Medicine (MD)

Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) / Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD)

Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM/VMD)

Time Period Credential Offered: Current

Issuing Body:

- [MD] Medical schools accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) of the American Medical Association (AMA)
- [DDS/DMD] Schools of dentistry accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) of the American Dental Association (ADA)
- [DVM/VMD] Schools of veterinary medicine accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Council on Education (COE)

Admission Requirements:

- [MD and DDS/DMD] At least three years of pre-professional undergraduate study plus admission test
- [DVM/VMD] At least two years of pre-professional undergraduate study plus admission test

Program Description:

Four-year professional university degree program

Provides Access to in the Home Country:

•Employment

MD graduates may apply for residency programs, which last three to seven years depending on the chosen medical specialty.

DDS/DMD graduates may start general practice by meeting state licensing requirements or complete two to four years of additional education in a dental specialty.

DVM/VMD graduates may start general practice by meeting state licensing requirements or complete three to four years of residency training in a veterinary specialty.

•Admission into professional graduate programs

IQAS Recommendations:

MD: Generally compares to the completion of a first professional university degree in medicine.

DDS/DMD: Generally compares to the completion of a first professional university degree in dentistry.

DVM/VMD: Generally compares to the completion of a first professional university degree in veterinary medicine.

IQAS Rationale:

Doctor of Medicine

It usually takes 11-16 years of education and training, depending on the area of specialization, to become a doctor licensed to practice medicine in the U.S. The process consists of three stages: undergraduate education (4 years), medical school (4 years) and clinical residency (3-8 years).

Admission to medical schools is based on pre-medical undergraduate subjects that can be completed in at about three years of study, though virtually all applicants will have completed a bachelor's degree upon their entry into medical school. Candidates to medical schools must also pass the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT).

The Doctor of Medicine (MD), the first professional degree in medicine, takes four years to complete. The Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) is the nationally recognized accrediting authority for medical education programs leading to the MD degree in U.S. The LCME also engages in accreditation of Canadian medical schools in collaboration with the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS). There are 141 LCME-accredited MD programs in the U.S as of 2012.

The MD curriculum is generally divided into two parts. The first two years (pre-clinical section) consist of classroom and laboratory study in the health sciences such as anatomy, biochemistry, medical laws and ethics, microbiology, pathology, physiology, and pharmacology. The last two years (clinical section) consist of clinical rotations or clerkships in different medical departments under the supervision of licensed doctors. Clinical rotations typically last four to twelve weeks and are completed in hospitals and health clinics, where students are exposed to different areas of medical practice such as paediatrics, internal medicine, general practice, osteopathy, psychiatry and surgery.

MD graduates apply for residency programs of their choice through a national matching program. Residency programs consist of three to eight years of professional training under the supervision of senior physician educators. The length of residency depends on the chosen medical specialty. Doctors who want to sub-specialize may also complete fellowship programs after residency. Fellowships are similar to residencies but even more focused and often contain a research component. They typically take one to three years.

Graduates from LCME-accredited medical schools must take the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE). Those who have successfully completed undergraduate study, MD, and residency may obtain a license from the state or jurisdiction of the U.S. where they want to practice medicine. Doctors who are licensed can legally work in the U.S.

Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) / Doctor of Dental Medicine (DDM)

The first professional degree in dentistry is Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) or Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD). Entry is based on pre-dental undergraduate subjects in humanities and behavioural and social sciences as well as biological sciences, math, chemistry and physics. These requirements can be fulfilled in at about three years of study, but most applicants will have completed a bachelor's degree upon their entry into dental school. All dental school applicants must also take the Dental Admission Test (DAT) prepared by the American Dental Association (ADA).

The Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) of the American Dental Association (ADA) is the nationally recognized accrediting agency for dental and dental-related education programs at the postsecondary level. The ADA website (www.ada.org) lists 65 accredited DDS/DMD programs in the U.S. By reciprocal agreement, programs that are accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC) are recognized by CODA and vice versa.

The DDS or DMD involves four years of fulltime study. The first two years focus on biomedical sciences, in particular the basic principles of oral diagnosis and treatment. Subjects covered usually include anatomy, biochemistry, embryology, histology, pharmacology and physiology. The last two years consist of hands-on clinical study involving treatment of patients through rotation under the supervision of licensed dentists. Other topics covered include practice management, patient management, professional ethics and the use of allied dental personnel.

To obtain licensure, dental school graduates must meet requirements of the state in which they plan to practice. They must pass the National Board Dental Examination and a state clinical examination. To practice in ADA-recognized dental specialties, they must complete two to four years of additional training.

Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM or VMD)

The first professional degree in veterinary medicine is the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM or VMD), which involves four years of fulltime study. Entry is based on at least 60 semester credits of required undergraduate courses in biological and physical sciences such as chemistry, genetics, microbiology and physiology as well as courses in mathematics, humanities and social sciences, which may be fulfilled in two years of fulltime study. Most applicants will have completed a bachelor's degree upon their entry into the professional program. Applicants usually have to take a standardized test such as Graduate Record Examination (GRE), Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) or Veterinary College Admission Test (VCAT).

The DVM curriculum is usually divided into two parts. The first two years (pre-clinical section) consists of classroom and laboratory study in basic and health sciences. The last two years (clinical section) consist of clinical instruction that gives students hands-on experience diagnosing and treating animal diseases under the supervision of licensed veterinarians. The fourth year is typically spent on clinical rotations in animal hospitals and private practices.

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Council on Education (COE) is the nationally recognized accrediting body for DVM and equivalent programs. Its website (http://www.avma.org/education/cvea/coe_home.asp) provides a list of accredited veterinary schools in the U.S. and Canada. The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) defers to AVMA with regard to accreditation of veterinary colleges.

DVM holders have to take the North American Veterinary Licensing Exam (NAVLE) and meet other state requirements to obtain state licensure to practice. Those who want to concentrate in a specialty of veterinary medicine may enrol in residency programs, which take three to four years, to earn specialty certification from AVMA American Board of Veterinary Specialties.

Conclusion

First degrees in medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine in the U.S. require four years of fulltime professional study following at least two to three years of pre-professional undergraduate study. Graduates may obtain state licensure to practice after passing licensing examinations and meeting residency and/or other requirements. First degrees in medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine in Canada follow the same program structure. There is reciprocal recognition of accredited programs in medicine and dentistry, and a single accrediting body for veterinary schools in both countries. Based on the above information and placement recommendations from other evaluation resources, IQAS concludes first degrees in medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine from the U.S. generally compare to the completion of first professional university degrees in medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine respectively.

Grading:

Grading scales differ greatly by institution.

141 AMA-accredited medical schools in the U.S. (as of 2012)

(www.lcme.org/directry.htm)

- Albany Medical College
- Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University
- Baylor College of Medicine
- Boonshoft School of Medicine, Wright State University
- Boston University School of Medicine
- Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine
- Central Michigan University College of Medicine
- Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine at Florida Atlantic University
- Chicago Medical School at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science
- Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons
- Cooper Medical School of Rowan University
- Creighton University School of Medicine
- David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
- Drexel University College of Medicine
- Duke University School of Medicine
- East Tennessee State University James H. Quillen College of Medicine
- Eastern Virginia Medical School
- Emory University School of Medicine

- Florida International University Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine
- Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University
- Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth
- Georgetown University School of Medicine
- Harvard Medical School
- Hofstra North Shore-LIJ School of Medicine at Hofstra University
- Howard University College of Medicine
- Indiana University School of Medicine
- Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University
- John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii at Manoa
- Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
- Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California
- Loma Linda University School of Medicine
- Louisiana State University School of Medicine in New Orleans
- Louisiana State University School of Medicine in Shreveport
- Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine
- Mayo Medical School
- Medical College of Georgia, Georgia Health Sciences University
- Medical College of Wisconsin
- Medical University of South Carolina College of Medicine
- Meharry Medical College School of Medicine
- Mercer University School of Medicine
- Michigan State University College of Human Medicine
- Morehouse School of Medicine
- Mount Sinai School of Medicine
- New York Medical College
- New York University School of Medicine
- Northeast Ohio Medical University College of Medicine
- Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine
- Ohio State University College of Medicine
- Oregon Health & Science University School of Medicine
- Paul L. Foster School of Medicine
- Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine
- Ponce School of Medicine and Health Sciences
- Rush Medical College of Rush University Medical Center
- Saint Louis University School of Medicine
- San Juan Bautista School of Medicine
- Sanford School of Medicine of the University of South Dakota
- Southern Illinois University School of Medicine
- Stanford University School of Medicine
- State University of New York Upstate Medical University College of Medicine
- State University of New York, Downstate Medical Center, College of Medicine
- Stony Brook University School of Medicine
- Stritch School of Medicine, Loyola University Chicago
- Temple University School of Medicine
- Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine
- Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine
- The Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University
- The Commonwealth Medical College
- The Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University
- The Florida State University College of Medicine
- The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences
- The Raymond and Ruth Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania

- The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University
- Tufts University School of Medicine
- Tulane University School of Medicine
- UMDNJ - New Jersey Medical School
- UMDNJ - Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
- Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine
- Universidad Central del Caribe School of Medicine
- University at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, State University of New York
- University of Alabama School of Medicine
- University of Arizona College of Medicine
- University of Arizona College of Medicine - Phoenix
- University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Medicine
- University of California - Davis School of Medicine
- University of California - Irvine School of Medicine
- University of California - Riverside School of Medicine
- University of California - San Diego School of Medicine
- University of California - San Francisco School of Medicine
- University of Central Florida College of Medicine
- University of Chicago Division of the Biological Sciences, The Pritzker School of Medicine
- University of Cincinnati College of Medicine
- University of Colorado School of Medicine
- University of Connecticut School of Medicine
- University of Florida College of Medicine
- University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine
- University of Iowa Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine
- University of Kansas School of Medicine
- University of Kentucky College of Medicine
- University of Louisville School of Medicine
- University of Maryland School of Medicine
- University of Massachusetts Medical School
- University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine
- University of Michigan Medical School
- University of Minnesota Medical School
- University of Mississippi School of Medicine
- University of Missouri School of Medicine
- University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine
- University of Nebraska College of Medicine
- University of Nevada School of Medicine
- University of New Mexico School of Medicine
- University of North Carolina School of Medicine
- University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences
- University of Oklahoma College of Medicine
- University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
- University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine
- University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry
- University of South Alabama College of Medicine
- University of South Carolina School of Medicine, Columbia
- University of South Carolina School of Medicine, Greenville
- University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine
- University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston
- University of Texas Medical School at Houston
- University of Texas School of Medicine at San Antonio
- University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, Southwestern Medical School

- University of Toledo College of Medicine
- University of Utah School of Medicine
- University of Vermont College of Medicine
- University of Virginia School of Medicine
- University of Washington School of Medicine
- University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health
- USF Health Morsani College of Medicine
- Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
- Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine
- Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine
- Wake Forest School of Medicine of Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center
- Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine
- Wayne State University School of Medicine
- Weill Cornell Medical College of Cornell University
- West Virginia University School of Medicine
- Western Michigan University School of Medicine
- Yale University School of Medicine

65 ADA-accredited dental schools in the U.S. (as of 2012)

(www.ada.org/267.aspx)

- A.T. Still University Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health
- Baylor College of Dentistry Component of Texas A & M Health Sci Ctr
- Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine
- Case Western Reserve Univ. School of Dental Medicine
- Center for Health Science
- Columbia University College of Dental Medicine
- Creighton University School of Dentistry
- East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine
- Georgia Health Sciences University College of Dental Medicine
- Harvard University School of Dental Medicine
- Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC
- Howard University College of Dentistry
- Indiana University School of Dentistry
- LECOM College of Dental Medicine
- Loma Linda University School of Dentistry
- Louisiana State University School of Dentistry
- Marquette University School of Dentistry
- Medical University of South Carolina James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine
- Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry
- Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine- Arizona
- Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine- Illinois
- New York University College of Dentistry
- Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine
- Ohio State University College of Dentistry
- Oregon Health and Science University School of Dentistry
- Roseman University of Health Sciences College of Dental Medicine
- Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine
- State University of New York at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine
- State University of New York at Stony Brook School of Dental Medicine
- Temple University The Maurice H. Kornberg School of Dentistry
- The University of Texas School of Dentistry at Houston
- Tufts University School of Dental Medicine

- University of Alabama School of Dentistry at UAB
- University of California at Los Angeles School of Dentistry
- University of California at San Francisco School of Dentistry
- University of Colorado Denver School of Dental Medicine
- University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine
- University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry
- University of Florida College of Dentistry
- University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry
- University of Iowa College of Dentistry
- University of Kentucky College of Dentistry
- University of Louisville School of Dentistry
- University of Maryland School of Dentistry
- University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey New Jersey Dental School
- University of Michigan School of Dentistry
- University of Minnesota School of Dentistry
- University of Mississippi School of Dentistry
- University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry
- University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry
- University of Nevada Las Vegas School of Dental Medicine
- University of New England Westbrook College Campus
- University of North Carolina School of Dentistry
- University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry
- University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine
- University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine
- University of Puerto Rico School of Dental Medicine
- University of Tennessee College of Dentistry
- University of Texas Hlth Science Cnt-San Antonio Dental School
- University of the Pacific Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry
- University of Utah School of Dentistry
- University of Washington-Health Sciences School of Dentistry
- Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry
- West Virginia University School of Dentistry
- Western University of Health Sciences College of Dental Medicine

28 AVMA-accredited veterinary medical schools in the U.S. (as of 2012):

(www.avma.org/ProfessionalDevelopment/Education/Accreditation/Colleges/Pages/colleges-accredited.aspx)

- Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine
- Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
- Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine
- Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine
- Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine
- Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine
- Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine
- Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine
- North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine
- Oklahoma State University Center for Veterinary Health Sciences
- Oregon State University College of Veterinary Medicine
- Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine,
- Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences
- The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine
- Tufts University Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine

- Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine
- University of California School of Veterinary Medicine
- University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine
- University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine
- University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine
- University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine
- University of Missouri-Columbia College of Veterinary Medicine
- University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine
- University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine
- University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine
- Virginia Tech Virginia-Maryland Regional, College of Veterinary Medicine
- Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine
- Western University of Health Sciences College of Veterinary Medicine

Country: U.S. (United States of America)
Master's Degree

Category: University

Credential Actual Name:

Master of Arts (MA or AM) / Master of Science (MS or SM)

Credential Alternate Actual Name(s):

Master of Accounting (MAcc)
Master of Agricultural Economics (MAE)
Master of Agricultural Extension (MAExt)
Master of Agriculture (MAg/MAgr)
Master of Applied Anthropology (MAA)
Master of Architecture (MArch)/Master of Science in Architecture (MSArch)
Master of Business Administration (MBA)
Master of Computer Science (MCS)
Master of Design (MDes)
Master of Education (MEd)
Master of Engineering (ME/MEng)/Master of Science in Engineering (MSE)
Master of Engineering Technology (MET/MSET)
Master of Fine Arts (MFA)
Master of Forestry (MF)
Master of Health Administration (MHA)
Master of Home Economics (MHE)
Master of Hospitality Management (MHM)
Master of Information Technology (MIT)
Master of Laws (LLM)
Master of Liberal Studies (MLS)
Master of Library Science (MLS)
Master of Mass Communications (MMC)
Master of Music (MM/MMus)
Master of Music Education (MMEd)
Master of Nursing (MN)/Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)
Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT)
Master of Pharmacy (MPharm)
Master of Philosophy (MPhil)
Master of Physical Education (MPE/MPed)
Master of Physical Therapy (MPT)
Master of Public Administration (MPA)
Master of Public Health (MPH)
Master of Social Work (MSW)
Master of Taxation (MT)
Master of Technology (MTech.)
Master of Veterinary Science (MVetSc/MVS)

Master of Women's Studies (MWS)

Note: These are examples of master's degrees and do not constitute a complete list of such programs.

Time Period Credential Offered: Current

Issuing Body: Four-year colleges and universities accredited by one of the six regional accrediting bodies:

- Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools: Middle States Commission on Higher Education
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges: Commission on Institutions of Higher Education
- North Central Association of Colleges and Schools: The Higher Learning Commission
- Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools: Commission on Colleges
- Western Association of Schools and Colleges: Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities

Admission Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree
- Some programs require standardized test scores such as GRE and GMAT

Program Description:

- One-year (or one-and-a-half-year, two-year) graduate degree program
- *Program length usually varies from one to two years.*

Provides Access to in the Home Country:

- Employment
- Admission to doctoral programs

IQAS Recommendations:

Generally compares to the completion of a Master's degree.

IQAS Rationale:

The most common master's degrees awarded are the Master of Arts (MA or AM) and Master of Science (MS or SM). A master's degree generally requires at least 30 semester credits or 45 quarter credits of graduate-level study, which can be completed in one to two years on a fulltime basis. Entry is based on a bachelor's degree with required undergraduate subjects. Many institutions and programs also require standard test scores such as Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT).

Master's degrees in academic fields are often research degrees that require the completion of graduate-level coursework, passing comprehensive examinations in the chosen field or fields of research, and the preparation and defence of a master's thesis. Coursework may consist of lectures as well as seminars, which involve small groups of students participating in discussions and making presentations under faculty guidance. Some master's programs have a

non-thesis option, also called master's degrees by coursework, which require students to complete more coursework or a major project in lieu of the thesis. A minimum cumulative grade point average of B (3.0) is usually required for graduation.

Master's degrees in professional fields may be research-based programs or they may be structured specifically to prepare students to work in an applied professional field at an advanced level. Professional internships may also be required in supervised work settings.

Some institutions offer combined bachelor and master's degree programs for their outstanding undergraduate students. The duration of such programs is typically shorter than completing the two degrees separately; for example, a combined BS/MS may be completed in five years. Students may take some graduate-level courses in their fourth year of study that count towards both their bachelor's and master's degrees. There are also combined first professional degree and master's degree programs such as JD/MBA, JD/MA, MD/MA and MD/MPH. Again, the duration of such programs is typically shorter than completing the two degrees separately

Master's degrees are second degrees that may lead to doctoral-level studies. Professional master's degrees in some fields, such as Master of Fine Arts (MFA), may be considered terminal degrees if no doctoral-level programs are available in those fields.

Refer to the *International Education Guides: the U.S.* for more information on master's degrees, including sample program structures and documents.

Conclusion

The master's degree involves one to two years of fulltime study, with entry based on a bachelor's degree. It usually comprises a combination of coursework and guided research leading to the completion of a master's thesis or project. A master's degree allows an individual to seek admission to doctoral programs in related fields.

Based on the above information and placement recommendations of other evaluation resources, IQAS concludes the master's degree from the U.S. generally compares to the completion of a Master's degree.

Grading:

Most institutions use a letter scale, which can be converted into grade points. Transcripts usually list grade points for each subject and a GPA for each semester or quarter and a cumulative GPA for the entire program.

Higher Education Graduate Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Grade Point	Descriptor	IQAS (%)
A	4.0	Excellent	96
B	3.0	Good	74
C	2.0	Pass	62
D	1.0	No Credit	52
F	0.0	Fail	<50

Some institutions and programs adopt a plus/minus scale to allow for more accurate grading of student performance.

Higher Education Plus/Minus Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Grade Point		IQAS (%)
A+	4.0/4.3	4.00/4.33	96
A	4.0	4.00	88
A-	3.7	3.84	82
B+	3.3	3.33	77
B	3.0	3.00	74
B-	2.7	2.67	70
C+	2.3	2.33	66
C	2.0	2.00	62
C-	1.7	1.67	58
D+	1.3	1.33	55
D	1.0	1.00	52
D-	0.7	0.67	<50
F	0.0	0.00	<50

Country: U.S. (United States of America)
Doctor of Philosophy

Category: University

Credential Actual Name:
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Time Period Credential Offered: Current

Issuing Body: Four-year colleges and universities accredited by one of the six regional accrediting bodies:

- Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools: Middle States Commission on Higher Education
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges: Commission on Institutions of Higher Education
- North Central Association of Colleges and Schools: The Higher Learning Commission
- Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools: Commission on Colleges
- Western Association of Schools and Colleges: Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities

Admission Requirements:

- Master's degree plus admission test
- Some programs admit bachelor's degree holders

Program Description:

- Advanced research-based graduate degree program

Provides Access to in the Home Country:

- Employment
- Post-doctoral studies

IQAS Recommendations:

Generally compares to the completion of a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree.

IQAS Rationale:

The most common research doctorate is the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), which represents the highest academic qualification in the U.S. education system. A PhD program usually involves at least three years of fulltime study following a master's degree or five years of study following a bachelor's degree.

PhD program requires the successful completion of coursework, comprehensive exams and a dissertation. Students first have to complete coursework such as research seminars and colloquia at a satisfactory level and pass written comprehensive examinations in their chosen

specialization and some related fields before advancing to candidacy on the recommendation of doctoral faculty. They conduct independent research based on a research proposal approved by the dissertation advisor and doctoral committee and must succeed at the oral defence of the dissertation in order to receive the doctoral degree.

In some areas it is common for students to proceed directly from the bachelor's degree to enrolment in PhD studies. Students admitted based on their bachelor's degrees may request a master's degree to be awarded as an intermediate qualification for employment purposes.

There is no research degree following the PhD or equivalent doctoral degree. New PhD holders, especially in natural and applied science disciplines, may choose to further their research credentials by pursuing postdoctoral research studies.

Conclusion

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programs in the U.S. generally require applicants to have a master's degree with good standing. They involve three or more years of fulltime study leading to the completion and defence of a thesis based on original research. A PhD gives an individual access to employment as well as post-doctoral study. Based on the above information and the placement recommendations of other evaluation resources, IQAS concludes the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) from the U.S. generally compares to the completion of a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree.