

## List of Credentials/Degrees

### At community colleges/two-year colleges you can earn . . .

**Diplomas and Certificates** - These demonstrate that you have a set of skills for a particular occupation. The length of time required varies by occupation, ranging from six months to less than two years. Certificates and diplomas are available in subjects like airline mechanics, welding, cosmetology, and practical nursing (LPN).

**Associate Degrees** - These are two-year degrees that provide preparation for a career or for transfer to a four-year college or university. Examples of careers that require an associate degree are dental hygienist, computer network manager, and airline pilot. Students can also earn an associate degree, then transfer to a four-year school to earn a bachelor's degree.

### At four-year colleges and universities, you can earn . . .

**Bachelor's Degrees** - A bachelor's degree is awarded after four years of study at a college. The Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Bachelor of Science (BS) are the most common. This degree requires general education courses like English and history, courses specific to your major, and electives to explore other areas of interest. This degree is also called an undergraduate degree. Examples of careers requiring bachelor's degrees are teacher and engineer.

**Master's Degrees** - A master's degree is an advanced degree earned in a specialized field after the completion of a bachelor's degree. Most master's degrees take two or three years of full-time study and include writing a thesis or taking comprehensive exams. School counselors, physical therapists, and social workers are examples of people with master's degrees.

**Doctoral Degrees** - A doctoral degree, also known as a doctorate (PhD), is the highest educational degree you can earn. A doctoral degree indicates expertise in a specialized field. Doctoral candidates often spend 3-5 years after earning a master's degree completing courses and research and writing a dissertation.

**Professional Degrees** - Professional degrees are advanced degrees in fields like dentistry, ministry, law, medicine, pharmacy, and veterinary medicine. These degrees are earned after completing a bachelor's degree, and the length of study required varies for each profession.