

OVERVIEW: WHAT PROGRAM IS RIGHT FOR ME?

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Updated March 2021

Degree Levels & Types (4 Main Degree Levels)	Average Completion Time (full-time)	Prerequisite
<p><i>Associates Degree</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate of Arts (AA) • Associate of Science (AS) • Associate of Applied Science (AAS) 	2 years	High school diploma or equivalent
<p><i>Bachelor's Degree</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Arts (BA) - teachers; writers, counselors, lawyers, researchers, curators • Bachelor of Science (BSc) - chemists, physicists, biologists, mathematicians • Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) - actors, dancers, artists, authors • Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) - engineers, software developers, project managers • Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) - entrepreneurs, managers, business executives • Bachelor of Architecture (BArch) - architects, interior designers, industrial designers, city planners 	4 years	High school diploma or equivalent
<p><i>Master's Degree</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master of Arts (MA) - academics; authors, therapists, professors, researchers • Master of Science (MS) - data scientists, software engineers, mechanical engineers • Master of Business Administration (MBA) - executives, CEOs, professors, business consultants • Master of Fine Arts (MFA) - authors, poets, creative directors, professors • Master of Laws (LLM) - judges; law firm partners, lawyers, politicians • Master of Publishing (MPub) - graphic designers, typographers, publishers 	1-2 years	Bachelor's degree
<p><i>Doctoral Degree</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) - academics, professors, specialists in a field, writers, scientists • Juris Doctor (JD) - lawyers; legal librarians, law firm partners, legal scholars • Doctor of Medicine (MD) - doctors; surgeons, medical scientists, instructors • Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) - dentists, dental surgeons, orthodontists • Doctor of Education (EdD) - college presidents, high-level educational administrators, provosts • Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) – Pharmacists 	2+ years	Master's degree completion
<p><i>Additional Dual & Terminal Degrees</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BA/MA, BS/MS, BA/JD, BS/JD, BA/PhD, BS/PhD, PharmD/MPH 	1+ years	varies by discipline

Associate Degree Programs provide the necessary training to prepare students for entry-level positions in fields like nursing, graphic design, and other vocational career paths. Graduates are typically gain transferrable skills that enable them to enter the workforce. Many students use their Associates Degrees to transition to a 4-year degree program.

Bachelor's Degree Programs are the traditional undergraduate degree completed in a major area of study (e.g., finance, history, communications, biology, etc.). Graduates are typically qualified to work entry-level or junior management positions, depending on the field. Completion of a bachelor's degree is required to pursue advanced (graduate) degrees.

Master's Degree Programs are graduate-level programs that allow students to specialize further in their desired area of study. There is typically a minimum GPA requirement as well as an examination requirements (GRE, MCAT, GMAT, etc.). Graduates are typically qualified to acquire advanced, executive-level positions. Completion of a bachelor's degree is required to pursue advanced (doctoral) degrees. *Courses are more intensive than in undergraduate and more research, writing and presentations as well as the completion of a capstone project (e.g., Thesis) is typically also required for graduation.*

Doctoral Degree Programs are the highest terminal degrees available. Graduates are typically recognized as experts in areas of business or research, and are qualified to apply for academic professorships at postsecondary institutions. *The completion of a capstone project (e.g., Dissertation) is typically also required for graduation; medical-related programs may require hands-on clinical hours.*

Choosing Your Program: Contrary to popular propaganda, graduate school ***IS NOT*** an essential degree for all professionals across the disciplines. Take the time to meet with a reliable Mentor, Career Coach or College Counselor prior to spending time and money on the application process.

Choosing your Advisor: Make sure that the person you're speaking with is qualified to advise you – that he/she either holds the degree about which you are inquiring or its equivalent. If you are not satisfied with your advisor as you take the next step in your career path, ask to be switched to a different advisor. **Fun Fact:** Most students do transition to a more advanced advisor in their Senior Year because they need additional support to consider and apply to grad school.

2021 Application Adjustments: Given the limitations caused by the current pandemic, some application requirements have been waived or significantly modified. Consult with your advisor for a list of CURRENT requirements before investing time and effort into preparation for major exams, etc. that may not be required.

2021 Funding Tips: (1) When applying for graduate and doctoral degrees, the choice of institution impact the level of funding acquired. (2) While many schools have waived the GRE requirement for MA/MS programs, students who plan to rely on financial aid should review all requirements concerning the completion of the GRE. (3) Specific institutions offer grants and scholarships based on academic and/or cultural specifications; consult your advisor, the ***Federal Student Aid*** listing and available endowments for each school to which you have applied for current information.