

Degrees Conferred Definitions

Certificate

The award conferred by a college or university at the completion of a formal course of study consisting of less than 60 undergraduate semester credit hours. In the University System, two types of certificates are awarded: less-than-one-year certificates and one-year certificates.

Associate's Degree

The award conferred by a college or university at the completion of a formal course of study consisting of at least 60 undergraduate semester credit hours. In the University System, two types of associate's degrees are awarded: Career Associates and Transfer Associates. Career Associates (A.A.S. degrees) prepare students directly for the job market. Transfer Associates (A.A. and A.S. degrees) prepare students for transfer into baccalaureate level programs.

Bachelor's Degree

The award conferred by a college or university at the completion of a formal course of study consisting of at least 120 undergraduate semester credit hours.

Advanced Certificate

The award conferred by a college or university at the completion of a formal course of study consisting of less than 60 graduate semester credit hours beyond the bachelor's degree.

Master's Degree

The award conferred by a college or university at the completion of a formal course of study consisting of at least 60 graduate semester credit hours beyond the bachelor's level. Some master's programs have additional requirements, such as a thesis, practicum, or portfolio. The USG also offers education specialist degrees for formal study beyond the master's degree, but with fewer requirements than the doctorate degree.

Doctorate Degree

The award conferred by a college or university at the completion of a formal course of study consisting of at least 60 graduate semester credit hours beyond the master's level. Some doctorate programs have additional requirements, such as a dissertation and a foreign language competency.

First Professional Degree

The awards conferred by research universities at the completion of formal courses of study beyond the bachelor's degree, in the following professional programs: Law, Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, and Veterinary Medicine.

Cohort Year

The fiscal year in which the degree was awarded. For example, fiscal year 2014 includes degrees conferred in Summer 2013, Fall 2013, and Spring 2014.

CIP Code

The six-digit Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code that identifies instructional program specialties within educational institutions.