

The Education Process In The USA

College: A Necessity To Get Ahead

For parents without previous college experience, the entire process can be a bit confusing. To make things easier to understand, you can refer to this page.

College Vs. University

A college is a smaller institution that offers undergraduate degrees (B.A., B.S., A.A., etc.) and limited degree programs. A university is a larger institution that offers undergraduate and graduate degrees (psychology, sociology, criminal law, arts and sciences, history, medicine, etc.) Some colleges do offer graduate programs.

Certificate and Diploma Programs

These are different from the degree programs and much shorter (depending on the program). Many can be completed in only three months, but they do not carry as much weight as a degree. Many jobs require a four-year degree as a minimum.

Associate Degree

This degree can be obtained after two years. It is similar to undergraduate degrees in its three requisites: specialization requirement (major), general education and electives.

There Are Two Kinds Of Technical Degrees:

They are known as Associate of Arts and Associate of Applied Science. (Many students choose a two-year technical degree because the tuition is considerably less for these colleges and they can later continue in other institutions.)

Undergraduate Degrees

Known as “bachelor’s degrees,” they’re typically four-year degrees, and they are required for students who want to obtain a master’s degree or a doctorate. There are two kinds of undergraduate degrees: an undergraduate degree in arts, “Bachelor of Arts” (B.A.) and an undergraduate degree in science, “Bachelor of Science” (B.S.). They usually require that the student completes 120 credit hours that cover the requisites of his/her specialization, as well as those for general education and electives.

Master’s Degree

A graduate program is done after an undergraduate program is completed. Between 30 and 60 credit hours are usually needed to obtain a master’s degree, and to write a thesis, which is a document (with the appropriate sources and citations) detailing an in-depth research project on a subject related to the field of study. There are two kinds of master’s degrees: Master in Arts (M.A.) and Master in Sciences (M.S.). Some master’s programs are considered “maximum” degrees, which is the highest possible level that a student can achieve.

Doctorate Degree

This is the highest degree possible. Before pursuing a doctorate, students must successfully pass their undergraduate and master’s degrees. Between three to six years of additional studies are generally needed, and the student will need to deliver a dissertation, which is a research study that the student must conduct him/herself, and that has not been done before. There are two types of doctorates: Research Degrees and Doctoral Degrees, as well as degrees in medicine (M.D.) or law (J.D.)

