

# Types of College Degrees

## High School Diploma

- Awarded for completion of high school
- Minimum education requirement for government jobs and higher education

## VS General Education Development

- Passing the GED Test is the only nationally recognized opportunity to earn a high school-equivalency credential

## Associate's Degree

Also known as a “two-year” degree

- Undergraduate degree awarded after completion of a course of study of about two years by:
  - Community Colleges
  - Junior colleges
  - Technical colleges
  - Bachelor's degree granting colleges/universities
- With an Associate's Degree, you can transfer into a four-year college as a third year undergraduate.

## Bachelor's Degree

Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Arts, etc.

- Undergraduate degree awarded after completion of a course of study of about four years by:
  - Four year state colleges
  - Four year universities
  - Four year private universities

## Master's Degrees, Professional Degrees, and Research Doctorate

**Master's Degree**

- Academic degree awarded after a bachelor's for individuals in a specific field of study or professional practice; May be course-based, research-based, or a mixture; Typically awarded after two years of study and dissertation or thesis

**Professional Degree**

- Follows undergraduate study; Includes degrees such as Doctor of Medicine (M.D.), Doctor of Jurisprudence (J.D.), Doctor of Dental Science (D.D.S.), etc.

**Research Doctorate**

- Awarded for independent research in academic disciplines or professional fields; Typically 5-8 years of study/research after undergraduate; Includes Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), Doctor of Education (Ed.D.), etc.