

BHE Program Inventory (Based on IPEDS Definitions)

Definition	Level
Undergraduate Certificate (1-2 years). A postsecondary award, certificate or diploma requiring completion of an organized program of study of at least one, but less than two, full-time equivalent academic years; or designed for completion in at least 30, but less than 60, semester credit hours; or in at least 900, but less than 1800, contact hours.	02
Associate Degree. An award requiring completion of an organized program of study of at least two, but less than 4, years of full-time academic study; or more than 60, but less than 120, semester credit hours.	03
Undergraduate Certificate (2-4 years). A postsecondary award, certificate or diploma, requiring completion of an organized program of study of at least two, but less than four, full-time academic years; or designed for completion in at least 60, but less than 120, semester credit hours, or in at least 1800, but less than 3600, contact hours.	04
Bachelor's Degree. An award requiring completion of an organized program of study of at least 4, but not more than 5, years of full-time academic study, with at least 120, but less than 150, semester credit hours.	05
Post-Baccalaureate Certificate. An award requiring completion of an organized program of study requiring <i>18 semester credit hours</i> beyond the bachelor's and is designed for persons who have completed a baccalaureate degree but do not meet the requirements of academic degrees carrying the title of "master".	06
Master's Degree. An award requiring completion of an organized program of study of at least one, but not more than two, full-time academic years of work beyond the bachelor's degree, and consisting of at least 30, but less than 60, semester credit hours.	07
Post-Master's Certificate. An award requiring completion of an organized program of academic study of <i>24 semester credit hours</i> beyond the master's degree but does not meet the requirements of academic degrees at the doctor's level.	08
Doctor's Degree. The highest award a student can earn for graduate study. The Doctor's degree classification includes such degrees as Doctor of Education, Doctor of Juridical Science, Doctor of Public Health, and the doctor of Philosophy in any field.	09
First Professional Degree. An award requiring completion of an organized program of study that meets all of the following criteria: (1) completion of the academic requirements to begin practice in the profession; (2) at least 2 years of college work prior to entering the program; and (3) a total of at least 6 academic years of college work to complete the degree program, including prior required college work plus the length of the professional program itself. ¹	10
First-Professional Certificate (Post-Degree). An award requiring completion of an organized program of study designed for persons who have completed the first professional degree.	11
Organized Research and Public Service Centers and Institutes	19

¹ IPEDS specifies that first professional degrees may be awarded in the following fields: chiropractic, dentistry, law, medicine, optometry, osteopathic medicine, pharmacy, podiatry, theology, and veterinary medicine.