

Your Postsecondary Education Options

The exact training and education you need after high school depends on the career path or interest area you have in mind. Successfully completing classes or training beyond high school (called postsecondary education), should lead you to obtain one or more of the academic credentials described below:

Postsecondary education

Training and classes beyond high school.

Postsecondary Academic Credentials	Examples	How Long?
<p>Certificate This credential is awarded to individuals who complete a defined set of requirements, coursework, and sometimes fieldwork and/or an apprenticeship in a specific area. Certificates are usually earned in 12-20 months at community colleges and vocational trade schools in Nevada.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate in Automotive Technology • Certificate in Practical Nursing • Certified Bookkeeper • Child Care Professional Certification • Certified Medical or Dental Assistant 	1-2 years of higher education
<p>Apprenticeship Apprenticeship programs combine classroom study with on-the-job training. Apprentices or trainees learn skilled trades.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrician • Firefighter • Stone Mason • Welder 	2-3 years of higher education
<p>Associate Degree These are awarded by a community college or junior college to individuals who complete a prescribed course of study, usually taking two years. Associate degrees are awarded in specific areas (majors) and often built on the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) and Associate of Arts (AA) degrees.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AAS in Early Childhood Education • AAS in Accounting • AAS in Medical Laboratory Technician • AA in University Parallel Studies 	2 years of higher education
<p>Bachelor Degree These require general and specific courses. Usually, students choose one or two subjects to study in-depth. These subjects are called major's or areas of concentration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBA in Architecture • BS or BA in Accountant • Writer • Teacher 	4 years of higher education
<p>Graduate Degree These are awarded by a college or university to individuals who have earned a bachelor degree who wish to further their education with a masters or doctoral degree. It typically takes two-three years to earn a masters and may take anywhere from 2-6 years or more to earn a doctorate. These degrees include the Master of Arts (MA), Master of Science (MS), Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), and Doctor of Education (EdD).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA in English Literature • MS in Counselling • PhD in History • EdD in Curriculum and Instruction 	6-8 years of higher education
<p>Professional Degree Professional degrees are pursued after the completion of a bachelor degree and can take two to six years to complete. The advanced study and work required for a professional degree prepares the holder for a particular profession by emphasizing competency skills along with theory and analysis.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JD - Lawyer • MD - Physician • DVM - Veterinarian • DDS - Dentist 	7-9 years of higher education
<p>Doctoral Degree Doctoral degrees are the highest degrees offered by colleges. They are awarded in broad subjects like history, biology, and music. These programs can take many years to complete. Doctoral candidates must research an original topic, write a long research paper, and defend their research in front of a panel of experts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College Professor • Economist • School Superintendent • Biomechanical Engineer 	8-10 years of higher education