

# Degrees & Certificates: Which is right for you?

<b>Bachelor of Arts/Science</b>	<b>Associate of Arts/Science</b>	<b>Associate of Applied Science</b>	<b>Certificate</b>
"I want to earn a college degree that will prepare me for my chosen career and or graduate school."	"I want to transfer to another institution to earn a traditional Bachelors degree."	"I want to learn a specific skill and my focus at this time is not on transferring to another Institution."	"I want to learn a specific skill <i>in a short amount of time</i> and my focus at this time is not on transferring to another institution."
The standard degree for entry into many professional careers. It typically takes four years of full-time study to earn. In these four years, you will complete 120 semester credits or about 40 college courses.	Academic transfer degree designed for students who will ultimately be pursuing a Bachelor's degree at a college or university	Degree plan designed for students who want to pursue short-term training so they can enter the workforce immediately	Programs of study that vary in length and are designed to prepare the student whose first priority is to acquire skills and knowledge needed for employment in a specific field.
In most cases, you cannot attend a professional graduate school in law, medicine, or teacher education unless you hold a bachelor's degree.	Arts: Business, Liberal Arts, History, Speech, Music, Education, Criminal Justice	May transfer to a college or university to pursue a baccalaureate degree, it's important to know that some courses will not transfer nor will they fulfill the general education requirements of a bachelor's degree. If a bachelor's is in your future, it's better to earn an A.A. or A.S. degree from a regionally accredited community college	The certificate is awarded upon completion of specific courses that have been industry validated and sequenced for the purpose of developing and upgrading skills in an occupation.
Examples: Teacher, Chemical Engineer, Network Administrator, Financial Analysts	Science: Engineering, Biology, Chemistry, Math	Examples: Nurses, Criminal Justice, Web Design	Examples: Accounting, General Business, CAD/Drafting, Web Design, Medical Assisting, Vocational Nursing, etc.

\*Getting an *education* is important to career success. The tricky part is figuring out what kind of education to get. An Associate's degree, a Bachelor's degree, and a Certificate meet very specific needs; therefore, there are many differences between the three.

*\*\*The predominant difference between the degrees of Associate of Applied Science (AAS) and Associate of Arts/Science (AA/AS) involves the goals of the individual. Knowing future career goals dictates which associate's degree to pursue.*