

Idaho State Board of Education
GOVERNING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SECTION: III. POSTSECONDARY AFFAIRS

SUBSECTION: E. Certificates and Degrees

February 2014

1. Definitions

Programs of instruction require specified numbers of credits earned through educational work on the part of students. Completion of the program of instruction results in the awarding of a certificate to or conferring of a degree upon the student by the faculty and the Chief Executive Officer. The following definitions have been approved by the Board:

a. CERTIFICATES:

i. Academic Certificate

A credential awarded for completion of a coherent program of study consisting of seven (7) semester credits or more, representing a coherent body of knowledge that does not lead to a degree.

ii. Academic Certificate of Completion

A credential awarded for completion of a coherent program of study consisting of six (6) semester credits or less, representing a coherent body of knowledge that does not lead to an academic certificate or a degree.

iii. Technical Certificate of Completion

A career technical credential awarded by the institution consisting of seven (7) semester credits or less that represents mastery of a defined set of competencies.

iv. Basic Technical Certificate

A credential awarded for completion of requirements in an approved career technical program of at least eight (8) semester credit hours and represents mastery of a defined set of competencies.

v. Intermediate Technical Certificate

A credential awarded for the completion of requirements in an approved career technical program of at least 30 semester credit hours and represents mastery of a defined set of competencies.

vi. Advanced Technical Certificate

A credential awarded for completion of requirements in an approved career technical program of at least 52 semester credit and represents mastery of a defined set of competencies.

b. ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE: A credential awarded for completion of requirements in an approved career technical program of at least 60 semester credits (includes a minimum of 15 general education credits) and represents mastery of a defined set of competencies. An Advanced option may

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be awarded for additional credits of at least 15 credit hours that are beyond the A.A.S. degree.

- c. ASSOCIATE DEGREE: A credential awarded for completion of requirements entailing at least two (2) but normally less than four (4) years of full-time academic work.
- d. BACCALAUREATE DEGREE: A credential awarded for completion of requirements entailing at least four (4) years of full-time academic work.
- e. MASTER'S DEGREE: A credential awarded for completion of requirements entailing at least one (1) but normally not more than two (2) years of full-time academic work beyond the baccalaureate degree, including any required research.
- f. SPECIALIST DEGREE: A credential awarded for completion of requirements entailing at least two (2) but normally not more than three (3) years of full-time academic work beyond the baccalaureate degree.
- g. DOCTORAL DEGREE: A credential awarded for completion of requirements entailing at least three (3) years of full-time academic work beyond the baccalaureate degree, including any required research.

2. Academic and Career Technical Credit Hour Requirements

A credit hour is an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency that reasonably approximates not less than:

- a. One (1) hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester hour of credit, or ten to twelve weeks for one quarter hour of credit, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time; or
- b. At least an equivalent amount of work as required in paragraph (a) of this definition for other academic activities as established by the institution, including laboratory work, internships, practica, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

3. Requirements for Certificate or Degree

Each institution will establish the number of earned credits required for each certificate or degree. The requirements may differ from the general requirements specified in the definitions, but all credit requirements must receive approval in accordance with the

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program approval policies provided in III.G. Institutional catalogs will specify the required number of earned credits for each certificate or degree.

4. Authorization Required

Programs offered at the institution, as well as the certificates and degrees to which they lead, are subject to review and approval in accordance with the program approval policies provided in III.G. A certificate or degree conferred upon the student is conferred under the authority of the Board.

5. Authorized Certificates and Degrees

A current listing of authorized certificates and degrees awarded by each institution is maintained at the institution by the Chief Executive Officer and for all institutions at the Office of the State Board of Education.

6. Honorary Degrees

Each institution, except Eastern Idaho Technical College, may award honorary degrees, not to exceed the highest level of Board-authorized degrees currently awarded by the institution, to persons in recognition of distinguished achievements at the local, state, or national level in areas such as education, public service, research, sciences, humanities, business, or other professions. The award of an honorary degree must receive the prior approval of the Chief Executive Officer upon recommendation by the faculty.

Each institution will develop its own procedures for seeking nominations for and selecting honorary degree recipients. Those procedures may include a statement of eligibility requirements for honorary degrees. However, no person who is currently employed by the institution, is a member of the Board or the Board's staff, or is an incumbent elected official is eligible for an honorary degree during the term of employment, appointment, or office.