

YOUR GUIDE TO POST- SECONDARY CREDENTIALS

CERTIFICATE.

TYPICALLY <1 YEAR

An undergraduate certificate program is ideal for those who want to take classes that are related to each other, whether in terms of their theme or focus (academic or technical).

**1-2
YEARS**

DIPLOMA

1-3 YEARS

Obtaining a diploma is a great way to gain specialized skills in your chosen profession. Diploma programs are often more technical and give students practical skills they can apply directly in their chosen field.

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

3-4 YEARS

Also known as an undergraduate degree, this academic credential takes 3 -4 years.

To earn your master's degree or doctorate, you need to earn your bachelor's degree first.

Applied Bachelors's degree offer hands-on training in a career embedded within a four-year degree. :

**3-4
YEARS**

APPRENTICESHIP & VOCATIONAL TRAINING

1-4 YEARS

Train for a wide variety of practical skills, ranging from construction and mechanical trades to hairdressing and outdoor guiding. When you complete the program, you'll receive a certification or "ticket" allowing you to practice the trade independently.

Apprenticeship programs combine paid on-the-job training with learning in a classroom or shop setting. In most programs, you'll spend about 85 per cent of the time on the job.

MASTER'S

1-3 YEARS

This is an advanced or graduate-level degree. A full-time master's program takes approximately two years to complete and is worth between 30-64 credit hours. Students who pursue a master's degree do so to gain specialized knowledge and advance in their careers.

**1-3
YEARS**

DOCTORATE

>3 YEARS

This is an advanced or postgraduate degree, and most commonly, the highest degree qualification in a certain field. To obtain a doctorate degree you need to complete anywhere between 90 and 120 credit hours, or four to eight years. Those who pursue a doctorate degree are usually interested in careers in academia, i.e., university professor or research. There are two main types of doctorate degrees: academic and professional.

YOUR GUIDE TO POST- SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

COLLEGE

1-2 YEARS

Canada's college system was created to provide technical training and diplomas that respond to changing labour trends and the demands of a changing economy.

While colleges don't award postgraduate degrees, such as a master's or PhD, they do offer a wide variety of certificate, diploma, and bachelor's degree programs. Many students choose to begin their post-secondary journeys at colleges because of lower admission requirements, smaller class sizes, and cheaper tuition, before transferring to a polytechnic or university to finish their full degrees. Before transferring, students should check the transferability of courses between institutions.

ELAA MEMBER COLLEGES:

BOW VALLEY COLLEGE, KEYANO COLLEGE, LAKELAND COLLEGE, LETHBRIDGE COLLEGE, MEDICINE HAT COLLEGE, NORQUEST COLLEGE, NORTHERN LAKES COLLEGE, OLDS COLLEGE, PORTAGE COLLEGE, PRAIRIE COLLEGE,

POLYTECHNIC

1-5 YEARS

According to Polytechnics Canada, a polytechnic education "combines the practical approach of a college education and the depth of study usually associated with a university program."

Polytechnics are post-secondary institutions that offer advanced technical education. The polytechnic model is hands-on and industry-responsive. Programs encourage learning by doing, developing the practical skills and competencies required in today's workplaces and giving our graduates a leg-up in the labour market.

ELAA MEMBER POLYTECHNICS

SOUTHERN ALBERTA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, NORTHERN ALBERTA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, RED DEER POLYTECHNIC, NORTHWESTERN POLYTECHNIC

UNIVERSITY

>3 YEARS

A university is an academic institution that is governed by the provincial government but operates independently in terms of academic topics such as program quality, teachers, and policies and procedures. Universities in Canada are characterized as degree-granting institutions that award bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees. One of the major differences between college and university in Canada is that universities usually place a strong emphasis on analytical abilities as well as academic and professional programs.

Most universities are dedicated to producing research. This allows for hands-on learning opportunities through research projects and partnerships with graduate students.

ELAA MEMBER UNIVERSITIES

ALBERTA UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS, AMBROSE UNIVERSITY, ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY, BURMAN UNIVERSITY, CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY OF EDMONTON, MACEWAN UNIVERSITY, MOUNT ROYAL UNIVERSITY, ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY, THE KING'S UNIVERSITY, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA, UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY, UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE