



Structure of the U.S. Education System: Intermediate Graduate Qualifications

The U.S. higher education system awards several qualifications that represent studies and research beyond the master's degree but that are not the equivalent of a research doctorate. Most of these qualifications are in professional fields of study and represent a level of education corresponding to advanced professional standing.

Regulations governing these intermediate graduate qualifications are the responsibility of the institution offering the program and the appropriate professional and accrediting authorities.

FREQUENTLY ENCOUNTERED INTERMEDIATE GRADUATE TITLES

NOTE: This is only a partial list of such titles for informational purposes, not an exhaustive or official list.

Certificates

Advanced Certificate (A.C.)/Advanced Graduate Certificate (A.G.C.)/Advanced Graduate Specialist Certificate (A.G.S.C.)/Certificate of Advanced Studies (C.A.S.)/Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies (C.A.G.S.)
 Certificate of Advanced Study in Business (C.A.S.B.)/Certificate of Advanced Management Studies (C.A.M.S.)
 Certificate of Advanced Professional Studies (C.A.P.S.)
 Specialist Certificate in Gerontology (S.C.G.)
 Specialist in Psychology (Psy.S.)
 Specialist in Library Science (S.L.S.)
 Specialist in Counseling (Sp.C.)
 Specialist in Public Administration (S.P.A.)
 Specialist in School Administration (S.S.A.)
 Specialist in School Psychology (S.S.P.)

Diplomas

Artist's Diploma (A.D.)
 Professional Engineer (P.E.)
 Chemical Engineer (Ch.E.)
 Civil Engineer (C.E.)
 Electrical Engineer (E.E.)
 Graduate Diploma in Management (G.D.M.)
 Graduate Diploma in Public Administration (G.D.P.A.)
 Graduate Diploma in Taxation (G.D.T.)
 Graduate Performance Diploma (G.P.D.) [performing arts]
 Professional Diploma (P.D.)

Degrees

Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.)
 Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D/D.Psy.)*

Education Specialist (Ed.S./Sp.Ed.)
Licentiate in Sacred Theology (S.T.L.)

*A newly proposed degree for clinical, school and counseling psychologists intending to enter professional practice rather than conduct research.

[Return to Structure of U.S. Education](#)
[Return to USNEI Home Page](#)