

# **Degrees Conferred Definitions**

## **Certificate**

The award conferred by a college or university at the completion of a formal course of study consisting of less than 60 undergraduate semester credit hours. In the University System, two types of certificates are awarded: less-than-one-year certificates and one-year certificates.

## **Associate's Degree**

The award conferred by a college or university at the completion of a formal course of study consisting of at least 60 undergraduate semester credit hours. In the University System, two types of associate's degrees are awarded: Career Associates and Transfer Associates. Career Associates (A.A.S. degrees) prepare students directly for the job market. Transfer Associates (A.A. and A.S. degrees) prepare students for transfer into baccalaureate level programs.

## **Bachelor's Degree**

The award conferred by a college or university at the completion of a formal course of study consisting of at least 120 undergraduate semester credit hours.

## **Advanced Certificate**

The award conferred by a college or university at the completion of a formal course of study consisting of less than 60 graduate semester credit hours beyond the bachelor's degree.

## **Master's Degree**

The award conferred by a college or university at the completion of a formal course of study consisting of at least 60 graduate semester credit hours beyond the bachelor's level. Some master's programs have additional requirements, such as a thesis, practicum, or portfolio. The USG also offers education specialist degrees for formal study beyond the master's degree, but with fewer requirements than the doctorate degree.

## **Doctorate Degree**

The award conferred by a college or university at the completion of a formal course of study consisting of at least 60 graduate semester credit hours beyond the master's level. Some doctorate programs have additional requirements, such as a dissertation and a foreign language competency.

## **First Professional Degree**

The awards conferred by research universities at the completion of formal courses of study beyond the bachelor's degree, in the following professional programs: Law, Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, and Veterinary Medicine.

## **Cohort Year**

The fiscal year in which the degree was awarded. For example, fiscal year 2014 includes degrees conferred in Summer 2013, Fall 2013, and Spring 2014.

## **CIP Code**

The six-digit Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code that identifies instructional program specialties within educational institutions.