

Definitions of Academic Programs

A **Baccalaureate degree** normally requires at least four but not more than five years of full-time equivalent college-level work. This includes all bachelor's degrees conferred in a five-year cooperative (work-study) program. A cooperative plan provides for alternate class attendance and employment in business, industry, or government; thus, it allows students to combine actual work experience with their college studies. This also includes bachelor's degrees in which the normal four years of work are completed in three years. At IUPUI a baccalaureate degree requires a minimum of 120 credits, though individual schools can require a higher number of credits as determined appropriate.

A **Major** is an approved area of study leading to an approved academic degree. The major may or may not be part of the conferred degree title, depending on whether the degree will be listed separately by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education in its degree inventory. A major for a baccalaureate degree usually requires 30 or more course hours of specialized study within the plan of study for the degree. In some degree programs, major requirements can make up a large portion of the requirements for the degree.

A **Concentration** is an academic subject established as a field of specialization within a degree major. A concentration name is not part of the degree title, but can appear on the student's transcript.

A **Track** is an optional curricular path within a major or concentration that can be chosen by a student to meet her/his specific education or career needs. It can appear on the student's transcript.

A **Minor** is a structured program that is generally 15-18 credit hours. They are three types: 1) departmental or single-discipline minors, 2) inter-school, inter-departmental or cross discipline minors, and 3) thematic minors. A minor is only posted to the student's transcript concurrent with the degree.

Certificate programs provide a means for Indiana University to respond with a high degree of flexibility in meeting emerging needs for educational programs. They may address professional development needs of practitioners in a wide variety of areas, or they may provide focused areas of study for students pursuing other academic programs.

Certificates ordinarily include **12-29 credits**. Certificates of **30 credits or more** require ICHE approval.

Certificate programs may be offered at the **undergraduate and graduate** levels. They culminate in Trustee approval for awarding a certificate as the functional equivalent of a diploma.

These programs of study are intended to be housed and supported within existing academic units. Credit certificate programs typically will be primarily comprised of courses already present in the curriculum. Generally, courses required in credit certificate programs will apply to related degree programs in the supporting academic unit. Thus, credit certificate programs often perform a recruitment function, serving as stepping stones to participation in a degree program.

Certificates may be posted to the student's transcript upon completion of their requirements.

A Dual Degree program is one designed to allow students to concurrently pursue two distinct degrees in two or more areas of study from two separate schools or at two degree-levels (such as Baccalaureate and Masters) from one school. Each degree may be completed and awarded independent of each other when requirements for the degree are met. Frequently, depending upon the school, courses from one degree program may be used to meet requirements in the additional degree area.

A Dual Major program is one in which students are majoring in more than one plan of study within the same degree area. Dual major programs result in one degree with two majors being awarded from one school/college. Dual majors are not awarded independently from one another but are awarded at the same time the single degree is completed and awarded.

In the Student Information System (SIS):

A degree is known as a degree

A major, certificate, or minor is known as a plan

A concentration or a track is known as a sub-plan

Baccalaureate degree source: IPEDS Glossary and administrative practice.

Certificate source: Academic Leadership Council: Guidelines for Development of a Certificate Program (April 7, 2006)

Source for all other information: Administrative practice

Definitions approved by APPC 3/4/2011