

College Basics

Colorado Army Education Center

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Notes taken from College Success Tips for Adult Learners, Petersons, 4th Edition

What's your reason?

- Fulfill a dream
- Have fun!
- Make connections that can link you to future jobs
- Meet new people
- Increase your sense of personal accomplishment
- Earn a higher income
- Learn critical thinking and analytical skills

How about you?

Can I afford to go to college?

- Create a budget
 - Evaluate your finances: Can you eliminate some spending?
 - Review it monthly
- Save a little every month
 - Emergencies happen!
- Look at your credit cards
 - How much interest are you paying?
 - Pay more than the minimum...ALWAYS
- Get a job!

Kinds of Degrees

❑ Two-Year Degree

Associate degrees include the Associate of Arts (A.A.), Associate of Science (A.S.), Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.), and Associate of Occupational Studies (A.O.S.) degrees. Generally, you need to complete about 60 credit hours to receive an associate degree.

❑ Four-Year Degree

This is either a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) or a Bachelor of Science (B.S.). It is also called a baccalaureate or bachelor's degree and consists of 120 to 136 (but typically between 124 and 128) semester hours of credit or its quarter-hour equivalent.

❑ Master's Degree

This requires one or two years of academic credit past the bachelor's and usually results in either a Master of Arts (M.A.) or Master of Science (M.S.). It may or may not require a thesis. There are many variations as well, such as the Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) and the Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.).

❑ Professional Degree

This degree is specific to a certain profession, such as medicine, law, pharmacy, optometry, theology, and veterinary medicine. It requires (1) completion of academic requirements to begin practice in the profession, (2) at least two years of college work prior to entering the program, and (3) a total of at least six academic years of college work to complete the degree program, including prior college work plus the length of the professional program itself.

❑ Doctoral Degree

This is the highest academic award a student can earn for graduate study. It is offered by many universities and usually results in a Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy) in a particular academic field. For example, you could earn a Ph.D. in math, history, engineering, or public administration. Other doctoral degrees include the Doctor of Education (Ed.D. or D.Ed.) and the Doctor of Engineering (D.Eng., Eng.D., or Dr.Eng.). A doctorate requires three or more years of graduate work beyond a master's degree and completion of a dissertation approved by faculty committee.

Kinds of Colleges

- Universities- large college
- College-smaller and more restricted in degree offerings

- **Liberal Arts Colleges**

Liberal arts colleges offer degrees with concentrations of study in such fields as English, psychology, history, political science, philosophy, literature, foreign languages, fine arts, and more

- **Scientific or Technical Colleges**

Scientific or technical colleges offer degrees with concentrations of study in such fields as mathematics, physics, engineering, astronomy, architecture, and so forth.

- **Vocational Schools and Colleges**

Most vocational schools and colleges are private and for-profit; therefore, the tuition may be high. Many vocational colleges are accredited, but many others have degrees not recognized by other colleges.

- **Community Colleges**

Community colleges are usually fully accredited two-year institutions supported by a combination of state funds and local taxes. They offer a two-year program leading to either an Associate of Arts (A.A.) or an Associate of Science (A.S.) degree.

Community Colleges

- Community colleges have smaller class sizes.
- You can attend part-time. A large percentage of community college students work on a full- or part-time basis.
- The college is probably small enough that you can get special attention.
- The tuition is lower than tuition at a four-year college. Legal residents of the state and military personnel stationed in that state pay less than non-residents.
- It is easier to be admitted, since there are no admission test requirements. A high school diploma or its equivalent is generally the main admission requirement.

Accreditation

- The accreditation status of a college, university, or vocational institution gives you an indication of its general quality. It means that the school has undergone an in-depth review, met certain standards, and is found worthy of approval.

2 types:

- Regional institutional accreditation
- National institutional accreditation

- Regional
 - Most four-year universities, public and private, as well as two-year community colleges, are regionally accredited.
- National
 - Awarded to primarily private, for-profit schools that offer a wide diversity of subject matter and are national in their activities.
 - Regional schools typically do not accept credits from Nationally accredited schools

Accreditation matters if you plan on changing schools. It may matter to your employer, too.

Is Distance Learning right for me?

- What is it?
 - Distance education enables you to access courses without having to physically be in a classroom on a campus. Various technologies are used to deliver courses to off-campus sites, to the workplace, and to your home.
- Offers freedom and flexibility. Great for self-starters!
- Who offers it?
 - Most universities and colleges
- Instructor-led, Instructor facilitated, Self-paced
- Must have internet access

Credit by Examination

CLEP/DSST

Consists of a series of examinations that test college-level knowledge gained through course work, independent study, cultural pursuits, travel, special interests, military service schools, and professional development.

Business

Financial Accounting
Information Systems and
Computer Applications
Introductory Business Law
Principles of Management
Principles of Marketing

Composition and Literature

American Literature
Analyzing and Interpreting
Literature
College Composition
College Composition Modular
English Literature
Humanities

History and Social Sciences

American Government

History of the United States I:
Early Colonization to 1877

History of the United States
II: 1865 to the Present

Human Growth and
Development

Introduction to Educational
Psychology

Introductory Psychology

Introductory Sociology

Principles of
Macroeconomics

Principles of Microeconomics

Social Sciences and History

Western Civilization I:
Ancient Near East to 1648

Western Civilization II: 1648
to the Present

Science and Mathematics

Biology

Calculus

Chemistry

College Algebra

College Mathematics

Natural Sciences

Pre-calculus

World Languages

French Language

German Language

Spanish Language

What's a degree plan?

- A list of classes required for graduation
- Assesses transfer credits and credit by exam (CLEP)
- Provided by the school
 - Plan to visit an academic advisor with the school to go over the best order to take your classes
- Acts as a guide to help you figure out what classes to take
- Courses are listed along with credit hours

What's course credit?

- Every course is assigned a credit worth. It can be called:
 - Credit hour/Semester hour
 - Quarter hour
 - Clock hour
- This determines how much you will pay for your class.
- Typically, a class is 3 SH. If the school charges \$500/SH that = \$1500 for the class.
- If the class has 4 QH, convert QH to SH by multiplying by .66 then divide by cost.
 - $4QH = 1.98SH$, Total tuition/SH is cost.

Is my Grade Point Average Important?

- Your GPA is very important!
 - Can determine eligibility for entering/continuing attendance at your school
 - Can effect eligibility for financial aid- FTA, STA, Scholarships
 - Can be a reflection of how well you know your field of study
- Learning effective study habits can help if you're having trouble retaining information

Effective Study Habits

- Plan out your time
 - 2-3 hrs. per credit hour is recommended
 - If you're taking 12 credit hours that's 24-36 hours of study time!
- Create a weekly schedule that includes class, homework, study time
- Find a suitable environment-library, outside, classroom
 - Studying in a place where you can fall asleep is not recommended
- Review your notes after class and then again the next day-Repetition is the key!
- Get organized

Not sure if College is for you?

- Take your time
- See where you're at by taking the College Placement Skills Training (CPST) at <http://www.nelnetsolutions.com/DantesNet/>
- Visit with your school's academic advisor to ask questions
- Ask questions
- Takes commitment
- Takes money
- Takes sacrifice
- The Payoff Is Big!