

# Is an associate degree right for you?



## What is an associate degree?

An associate degree is an undergraduate degree earned after a high school diploma or GED. This type of degree can be a valuable stepping-stone in your education or career.

**60**

Minimum number of credits needed for an associate degree.

**15**

The approximate number of credit hours per semester.

**2**

Typical number of years it takes to earn an associate degree.

According to recent data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, associate degree graduates earn an average of **\$157** more per week than high school graduates.



## Who is an associate degree “right for”?



Individuals interested in exploring general classes and electives.



Those who aren't ready for a four-year commitment.



Students planning to transfer into a bachelor's degree program.



Graduates who want to apply for jobs right away in a chosen field.



Those looking to save money by taking community college classes.

## What can you do with an associate degree?

Nearly 100 occupations typically require some education beyond a high school diploma but less than a bachelor's degree. Some of these associate degree-level jobs include:

- Computer network specialists
- Radiologic technologists and technicians
- Physical therapist assistants
- Dental hygienists
- Preschool teachers (except special education)
- Paralegals and legal assistants



In 2018-2019, postsecondary institutions in the U.S. conferred **1 million** associate degrees. This was up from 848,900 in 2009-2010, an increase of 22%.