Degree Types

Doctorate Level Degrees
- Ph. D.: Doctor of Philosophy
- Psy. D.: Doctor of Psychology
- Ed. D.: Doctor of Education

Professional Degrees
- MD: Doctor of Medicine
- JD: Juris Doctor

Master Level Degrees
- MA: Master of Arts
- MAcc: Master of Accountancy
- MBA: Master of Business Administration
- MEd: Master of Education
- MFA: Master of Fine Arts
- MHA: Master of Health Administration
- MPA: Master of Public Affairs
- MPH: Master of Public Health
- MS: Master of Science
- MSW: Master of Social Work
- LLM: Master of Laws

Entrance Exams
- GRE: Graduate Record Examinations
- GMAT: Graduate Management Admissions Test
- LSAT: Law School Admission Test
- MCAT: Medical College Admission Test

Miscellaneous Terms

Academic Track Program: Degree that focuses on classical research and scholarship. Students in this program will need to complete and defend either a thesis or dissertation.

Addendum: Additional document to include with application materials to explain outstanding circumstances that may have impacted portions of the application. Most common for applicants to law programs.

Cover Letter: Part of the application to a graduate program. Document where the applicants explain their desire to enter a program and what they hope to gain from their experience while in the program.
**Curriculum Vitae (CV):** Part of the application to a graduate program. Document where applicant can list all academic, professional, volunteer experiences. More elaborate than resume.

**Dissertation:** A long essay on a particular subject, especially one written as a requirement for the doctor of philosophy degree.

**Entrance Exam:** Test, such as the GRE or LSAT, which is required for the admission to a graduate school program.

**Gap Year:** A period of time, typically an academic year, taken by a student as a break between secondary school and higher education.

**Faculty Mentor:** Faculty member who oversees your work in your graduate program. Guides you through your individual research project.

**Practical Track Program:** Degree that is developed as a professional training program. Students in this program will participate in a practicum experience where the skills learned through coursework can be developed.

**Practicum:** A practical section of a course of study where skills learned in coursework can be practiced; typically accomplished near the end of an academic program.

**Private University:** University not typically operated or funded by governments, although many receive tax breaks, public student loans, and grants. Depending on their location, private universities may be subject to government regulation. Most private universities are non-profit organizations.

**Program Length:** The amount of time needed to complete all requirements for a degree program. Can span from 1-7 years.

**Public University:** A university that is publicly owned or receives significant public funds through a national or subnational government.

**Research Assistantships:** Funding opportunity for graduate students. Tuition for program may be waived or stipend provided to students who work for the university conducting research.

**Resume:** A short, typically one page document that lists academic, professional, and volunteer experiences.

**Thesis:** A long essay involving personal research that is written by a candidate for a Master’s degree.

**Teaching Assistantships:** Funding opportunity for graduate students. Tuition for program may be waived or stipend provided to students who work for the university by teaching courses.