ACADEMIC AFFAIRS POLICY 2.11  
APPROVED ACADEMIC TERMS AND DEGREE DESIGNATIONS  

USE of STANDARDIZED ACADEMIC TERMS  
The Board of Regents requires colleges, universities, and professional schools to use academic terms 
and degree designations that are consistent with the Curriculum Inventory of Degree and Certificate 
Programs (CRIN).

For the purpose of identifying, advertising, and awarding of both undergraduate and graduate 
credentials, the following terms shall be used for diplomas, transcripts, catalogs, and all publications by 
public campuses and systems. A degree, technical diploma or certificate is an award conferred on a 
student by a college, university or professional school upon completion of a unified program of study 
including a grouping of campus-approved courses and requirements (e.g., minimum GPA). All levels of 
award are referenced in the aggregate as 'Degrees' in the CRIN.

- **A Degree Title** is the complete label of a Degree Program, consisting of a Degree Designation (e.g., 
  Associate of Science) and the Degree Subject Area (e.g., Biology). It is listed in the Regents' 
  Inventory under the categories "Degree Level" and "Degree Description/Option" (e.g., Associate of 
  Science in Biology).
  - The Degree Designation for each authorized program at public institutions of higher education is 
    listed in the Board of Regents’ Inventory of Degree and Certificate Programs. Some professional 
    programs include the name of the general subject area as part of the Degree Designation (e.g., 
    Bachelor of Architecture, Master of Social Work) and are listed on the CRIN as approved by the 
    Board of Regents. (A list of authorized designations is attached.)
  - A Degree Subject Area is the primary discipline which constitutes the focus of a program of 
    study listed in the Board of Regents’ Curriculum Inventory. The Degree Subject Area is the same 
    as the Major (e.g., Biology; History; Sociology).

- **A Curriculum** is a listing of requirements for a degree or credential: required and elective courses, 
  required program activities, and assessments.

For the purpose of identifying, advertising, and awarding of undergraduate degrees, the following terms 
shall be used for diplomas, transcripts, catalogs, and other publications by public campuses and systems.

- **A Major** is that part of a Degree Program which consists of a specified group of courses in a 
  particular discipline(s) or field(s). The name of the Major is consistent with the Degree Subject Area 
  on the CRIN. A Major usually consists of 25% or more of total hours required in an undergraduate 
  curriculum. Establishment of a Major requires prior approval by the Board of Regents.

- **A Minor** is that part of a Degree Program which consists of a specified group of courses in a 
  particular discipline or field, consisting usually of 15% or more of total hours required in an 
  undergraduate curriculum. Minors may be instituted without prior approval by the Board of Regents.

- **A Concentration** is an alternative track of courses within a Major or Option, accounting for at least 
  30% of the Major requirements. Concentrations may be instituted without prior approval by the Board 
  of Regents. Example: a concentration in molecular biology within a biology major.

- **An Option** is an alternative track of courses within a Major, accounting for 50% to 80% of the Major 
  requirements. Establishment of an Option requires prior approval by the Board of Regents; options 
  are listed on the CRIN.

For consistency and clarity the terms "Emphasis," “Track,” "Specialization," or any word other than those 
listed above describing the sub-unit of an undergraduate Major may not be used on diplomas, transcripts, 
or in catalogs.
**WORDING of CATALOGS, DIPLOMAS, COMMENCEMENT PROGRAMS, TRANSCRIPTS and Other Official Documents**

- **University/College Catalogs or Bulletins** shall list and advertise only Degree Titles of academic programs approved by the Board of Regents. Separate curricula may be given only for approved degree titles; minors, concentrations, etc. not listed in the Board of Regents’ Curriculum Inventory (CRIN) may be described in the text or footnote. These limitations shall also apply to any official advertisements for academic programs.

- **Higher education Diplomas** for earned degrees shall list and advertise the BoR-approved Degree Designation, as listed on the CRIN. Diplomas may include the name of the approved Degree Subject Area (Major) below the designation, and they may indicate superior academic achievement for outstanding grade point average and/or completion of an approved honors curriculum. Diplomas shall not include the name of the Minor, the Option, the Concentration, or any other descriptive term, except when such terms are included in the CRIN.
  - Certificate and Technical Diploma programs, both undergraduate and graduate, may include the full Degree Title (designation and subject) on the diploma or certificate of award.

- For undergraduate degrees, all higher education **Commencement Programs** shall list the appropriate Degree Designation and may indicate the approved Degree Subject Area (Major), superior academic achievement for outstanding grade point average and/or completion of an approved honors curriculum. Commencement Programs shall not include the name of the Minor, the Option, the Concentration, or any other descriptive term, except when such terms are included in the CRIN.

- For graduate degrees, **Commencement Programs** may also include the Degree Subject Area, the title of the approved thesis and/or dissertation, the name of the major professor, and the name of the awarding department.

- **Student Transcripts** may also list Degree Titles, Majors, Minors, Options, and/or Concentrations. These terms shall not be used to suggest augmentation of a given academic program distinct from the approved Degree Title.
Degree (and Non-Degree) Designations

Public colleges and universities shall identify degree programs on diplomas and commencement programs by the approved Degree Designation. Additional program information (e.g., degree titles, major, minor, concentration) is included on the student transcript.

The standard Degree (and Non-Degree) Designations found on the Curriculum Inventory (CRIN) include:

- AA – Associate of Arts
- AAS – Associate of Applied Science
- AS – Associate of Science
- BA – Bachelor of Arts
- BAS – Bachelor of Applied Science
- BS – Bachelor of Science
- CAS – Certificate of Applied Science
- CTS – Certificate of Technical Studies
- EdD – Doctor of Education
- GC – Graduate Certificate
- MA – Master of Arts
- MS – Master of Science
- PAC – Post-Associate Certificate
- PBC – Post-Baccalaureate Certificate
- PhD – Doctor of Philosophy
- PMC – Post-Master’s Certificate
- PPC – Post-Professional Certificate
- TD – Technical Diploma
- UC – Undergraduate Certificate

More specific Degree Designations are primarily related to the Classification of the Instructional Program (CIP) Code of the program and are driven by such considerations as program design, common practice, and professional accreditation. The CIP and Designation are assigned to a program as part of the program/proposal review process and are posted on the CRIN.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CIP Category</th>
<th>Alternate Designations Used in the CRIN (in addition to the standard designations)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>03 BSF</td>
<td>Bachelor of Science in Forestry</td>
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<tr>
<td>04 BAR, M ARCH</td>
<td>Bachelor (Master) of Architecture</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BID or BFA – Bachelor of Interior Design or Bachelor of Fine Arts</td>
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<td></td>
<td>BLA, MLA – Bachelor (Master) of Landscape Architecture</td>
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<td></td>
<td>MURP – Master of Urban and Regional Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>09 BAMC, MMC</td>
<td>Bachelor of Arts in (Major of) Mass Communication</td>
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<td>11 MSSS</td>
<td>Master of Science in Systems Science</td>
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<td>13 BME</td>
<td>Bachelor of Music Education</td>
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<td></td>
<td>EDD – Doctor of Education</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ED S – Education Specialist</td>
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<td>MAT – Master of Arts in Teaching</td>
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<td>M ED – Master of Education</td>
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<td>14 BSBE</td>
<td>Bachelor of Science in Biological Engineering</td>
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<td></td>
<td>BSCHE, MSCH – Bachelor (Master) of Science in Chemical Engineering</td>
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<td></td>
<td>BSCE, MSCE – Bachelor (Master) of Science in Civil (or Computer) Engineering</td>
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<td></td>
<td>BSCM, MSCM – Bachelor (Master) of Science in Construction Management</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BSCOE, MSCOE – Bachelor (Master) of Science in Computer Engineering</td>
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<td></td>
<td>BSEE, MSSEE – Bachelor (Master) of Science in Electrical Engineering</td>
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<td>BSEVE – Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering</td>
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<td></td>
<td>BSIE, MSIE – Bachelor (Master) of Science in Industrial Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BSME, MSME – Bachelor (Master) of Science in Mechanical Engineering</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 15 | BSPE, MSPE – Bachelor (Master) of Science in Petroleum Engineering  
    ME – Master of Engineering  
    MSBAE - Master of Science in Biological & Agricultural Engineering  
    MSE – Master of Science in Engineering  
    MSES – Master of Science in Engineering Science  
    MSMSE – Master of Science in Microsystems Engineering  
    BSEET – Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering Technology  
    BSIT – Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology  
    MSETM – Master of Science in Engineering & Technology Management  |
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| 22 | JD – Juris Doctorate  
    JD/GDCL – Juris Doctorate & Graduate Diploma in Comparative Law  
    LLM – Master of Laws  |
| 24 | AALT, ASLT – Associate of Arts (or Science), Louisiana Transfer  
    MALA – Master of Arts in Liberal Arts  
    CGS, AGS, BGS – Certificate/Associate/Bachelor of General Studies  |
| 25 | MLIS – Master of Library and Information Science  |
| 27 | MAS – Master of Applied Statistics  |
| 30 | BIS – Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies  
    MNS – Master of Natural Science  |
| 40 | BSG – Bachelor of Science in Geology  |
| 42 | SSP – Specialist in School Psychology  |
| 43 | ASCJ – Associate of Science in Criminal Justice  
    BCJ, MCJ – Bachelor (Master) of Criminal Justice  |
| 44 | BSW, MSW – Bachelor (Master) of Social Work  
    MPA – Master of Public Administration  |
| 50 | BFA, MFA – Bachelor (Master) of Fine Arts (also found in CIP 231302)  
    BM, BMUS, MM, MMUS – Bachelor (Master) of Music  
    BOID – Bachelor of Industrial Design  
    DMA – Doctor of Musical Arts  
    MDMAE – Master of Digital Media Arts & Engineering  |
| 51 | AD – Associate Degree  
    ASN, BSN, MSN – Associate (Bachelor, Master) of Science in Nursing  
    AuD – Doctor of Audiology  
    DDS – Doctor of Dental Surgery  
    DNP – Doctor of Nursing Practice  
    DNS – Doctor of Nursing Science  
    DPT – Doctor of Physical Therapy  
    DVM – Doctor of Veterinary Medicine  
    MCD – Master of Communication Disorders  
    MD – Doctor of Medicine  
    MHA – Master of Health Administration  
    MHI – Master of Health Informatics  
    MHS – Master of Health Sciences  
    MN – Master of Nursing  
    MOT – Master of Occupational Therapy  
    MPAS – Master of Physician Assistant Studies  
    MPH – Master of Public Health  
    MSD – Master of Science in Dentistry  
    OTD – Doctor of Occupational Therapy  
    PHARM D – Doctor of Pharmacy  |
| 52 | BBA, MBA, DBA – Bachelor (Master, Doctor) of Business Administration  
    BSBA – Bachelor of Science in Business Administration  
    BSCM, MSCM – Bachelor (Master) of Science in Construction Management  |