

# 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
- CTC – Career and Technical Certificate
- CTS – Certificate of Technical Studies
- EdD – Doctor of Education
- GC – Graduate Certificate
- MA – Master of Arts
- MS – Master of Science
- NX – Nexus
- 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.

CIP Category	Alternate Designations Used in the CRIN (in addition to the standard designations)
03	BSF – Bachelor of Science in Forestry
04	BAR, M ARCH – Bachelor (Master) of Architecture BID or BFA – Bachelor of Interior Design or Bachelor of Fine Arts BLA, MLA – Bachelor (Master) of Landscape Architecture MURP – Master of Urban and Regional Planning
09	BAMC, MMC – Bachelor of Arts in (Master of) Mass Communication
11	MSSS – Master of Science in Systems Science
13	BME – Bachelor of Music Education EDD – Doctor of Education ED S – Education Specialist MAT – Master of Arts in Teaching M ED – Master of Education
14	BSBE – Bachelor of Science in Biological Engineering BSCHE, MSCHE – Bachelor (Master) of Science in Chemical Engineering BSCE, MSCE – Bachelor (Master) of Science in Civil (or Computer) Engineering BSCM, MSCM – Bachelor (Master) of Science in Construction Management BSCOE, MSCOE – Bachelor (Master) of Science in Computer Engineering BSEE, MSEE – Bachelor (Master) of Science in Electrical Engineering BSEVE – Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering

	BSIE, MSIE – Bachelor (Master) of Science in Industrial Engineering BSME, MSME – Bachelor (Master) of Science in Mechanical Engineering 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
15	BSCET – Bachelor of Science in Construction Engineering Technology BSEET – Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering Technology BSIT – Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology MSETM – Master of Science in Engineering & Technology Management
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 MACC – Master of Accountancy
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