



Education
USA

Your Official Source on U.S. Higher Education



SEAMEO RETRAC

ASU Arizona State
University

Capacity Building for Guidance Counselors at Universities and High Schools in Vietnam

OPEN DOOR TO U.S. HIGHER EDUCATION

OVERVIEW OF U.S. HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

Dr. Ho Thanh My Phuong
Director, SEAMEO Regional Training Center in Vietnam
(SEAMEO RETRAC)

AGENDA

Overview of U.S Higher Education System

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Different types of H.E. institutions in the U.S

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Common degrees and non-degrees at U.S.
H.E Institutions

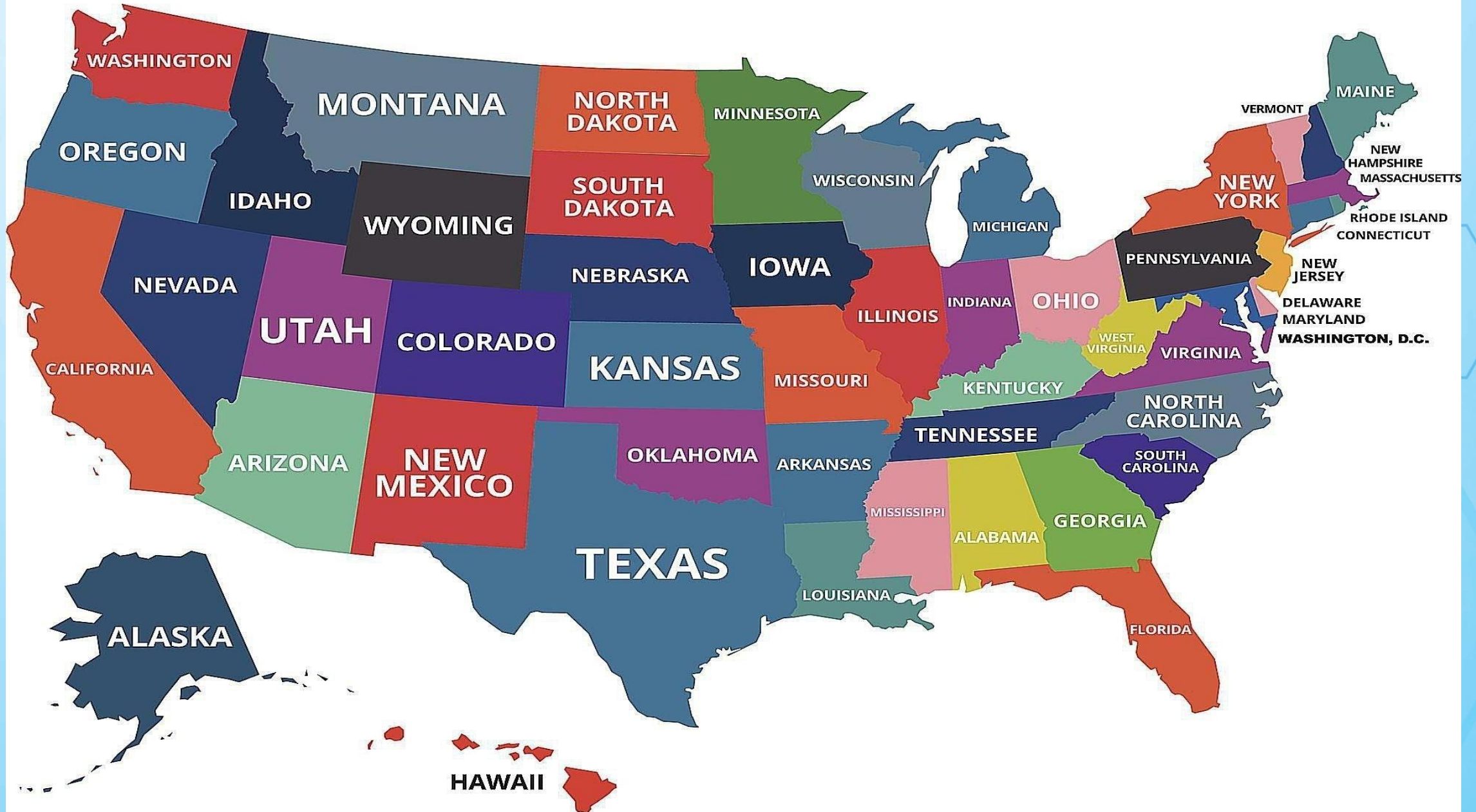
06

International students' trend pathways
and options

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Counselling guides and decisive matters

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



QUICK FACTS



Population:

329,256,465



Languages:

English, Spanish (no official national language)



AREA:

3,794,083 square miles (9,826,630 square kilometers)



Language of Instruction:

English

Compulsory Education:

Until age 16 (18 in some States)

Academic Calendar:

“semesters”-”quarters”-”trimesters”

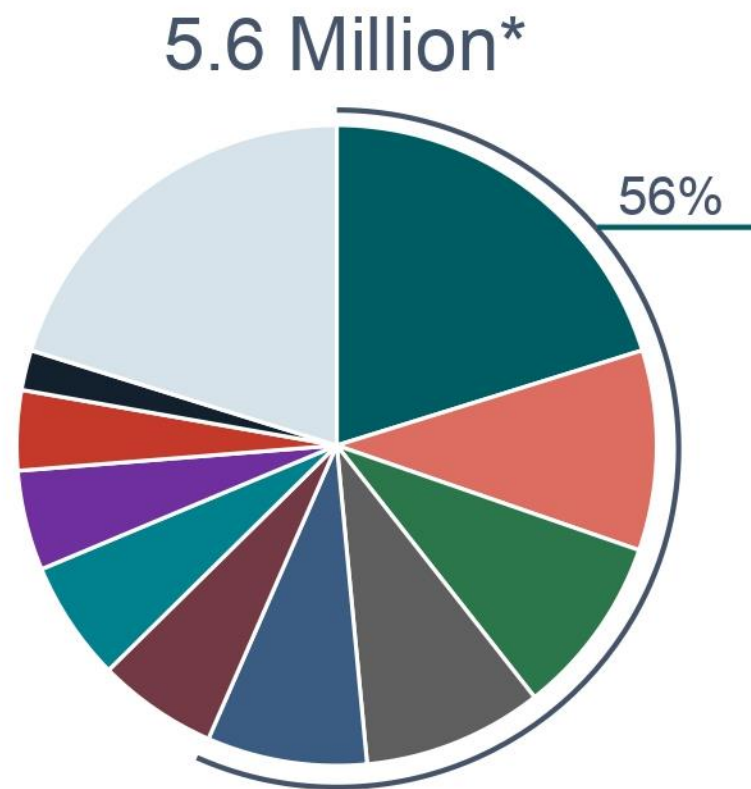
U.S. higher education institutions:

Vary up to the colleges/universities

~ 4,500 accredited institutions

Top global hosts of international students

| | Total international students | % market share |
|----------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| United States | 1,075,496 | 20% |
| United Kingdom | 551,495 | 10% |
| Canada | 503,270 | 9% |
| China** | 498,185 | 9% |
| Australia | 463,643 | 8% |
| France | 358,000 | 6% |
| Russia | 353,331 | 6% |
| Germany | 302,157 | 5% |
| Japan | 228,403 | 4% |
| Spain | 125,675 | 2% |
| All others | 1,140,345 | 20% |



*UNESCO, 2020

**This number reflects *Project Atlas* 2019 reported data.

OPENDOORS' DATA

TOP PLACES OF ORIGIN OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

| | | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | % of total | % change |
|----|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------|-------------|
| | WORLD TOTAL | 1,095,299 | 1,075,496 | 100 | -1.8 |
| 1 | China | 369,548 | 372,532 | 34.6 | 0.8 |
| 2 | India | 202,014 | 193,124 | 18.0 | -4.4 |
| 3 | South Korea | 52,250 | 49,809 | 4.6 | -4.7 |
| 4 | Saudi Arabia | 37,080 | 30,957 | 2.9 | -16.5 |
| 5 | Canada | 26,122 | 25,992 | 2.4 | -0.5 |
| 6 | Vietnam | 24,392 | 23,777 | 2.2 | -2.5 |
| 7 | Taiwan | 23,369 | 23,724 | 2.2 | 1.5 |
| 8 | Japan | 18,105 | 17,554 | 1.6 | -3.0 |
| 9 | Brazil | 16,059 | 16,671 | 1.6 | 3.8 |
| 10 | Mexico | 15,229 | 14,348 | 1.3 | -5.8 |
| 11 | Nigeria | 13,423 | 13,762 | 1.3 | 2.5 |
| 12 | Nepal | 13,229 | 12,730 | 1.2 | -3.8 |
| 13 | Iran | 12,142 | 11,451 | 1.1 | -5.7 |
| 14 | United Kingdom | 11,146 | 10,756 | 1.0 | -3.5 |
| 15 | Turkey | 10,159 | 9,481 | 0.9 | -6.7 |
| 16 | Germany | 9,191 | 9,242 | 0.9 | 0.6 |
| 17 | Bangladesh | 8,249 | 8,838 | 0.8 | 7.1 |
| 18 | France | 8,716 | 8,471 | 0.8 | -2.8 |
| 19 | Kuwait | 9,195 | 8,375 | 0.8 | -8.9 |
| 20 | Indonesia | 8,356 | 8,300 | 0.8 | -0.7 |
| 21 | Spain | 7,262 | 7,954 | 0.7 | 9.5 |
| 22 | Pakistan | 7,957 | 7,939 | 0.7 | -0.2 |
| 23 | Colombia | 8,060 | 7,787 | 0.7 | -3.4 |
| 24 | Malaysia | 7,709 | 6,910 | 0.6 | -10.4 |
| 25 | Venezuela | 7,760 | 6,855 | 0.6 | -11.7 |

Please watch the video clip on American school system



The image features a light blue background with a pattern of overlapping hexagons and lines, some of which are highlighted with small white dots. A dark blue horizontal banner is positioned across the middle of the image, containing the text "Study in the U.S" in a white, serif font.

Study in the U.S

Why study in the U.S?

Quality

- Academic excellence
- Degree recognition
- Facilities/learning resources/faculty



Choice

Variety choices of majors and academic programs



Diversity

- A mix of people from all different backgrounds
- Culture exchange



Flexibility

- In Education pathways
- In declaring majors....

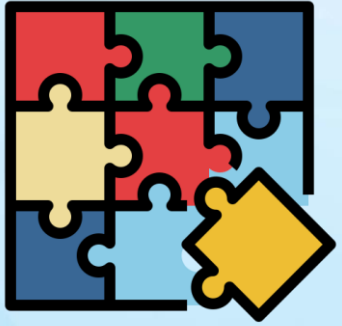


Value

- Investment value
- Lots of financial helps/scholarships and support



Why study in the U.S?



Variety of programs

~ **4,500** accredited public and private institutions

Pathway programs

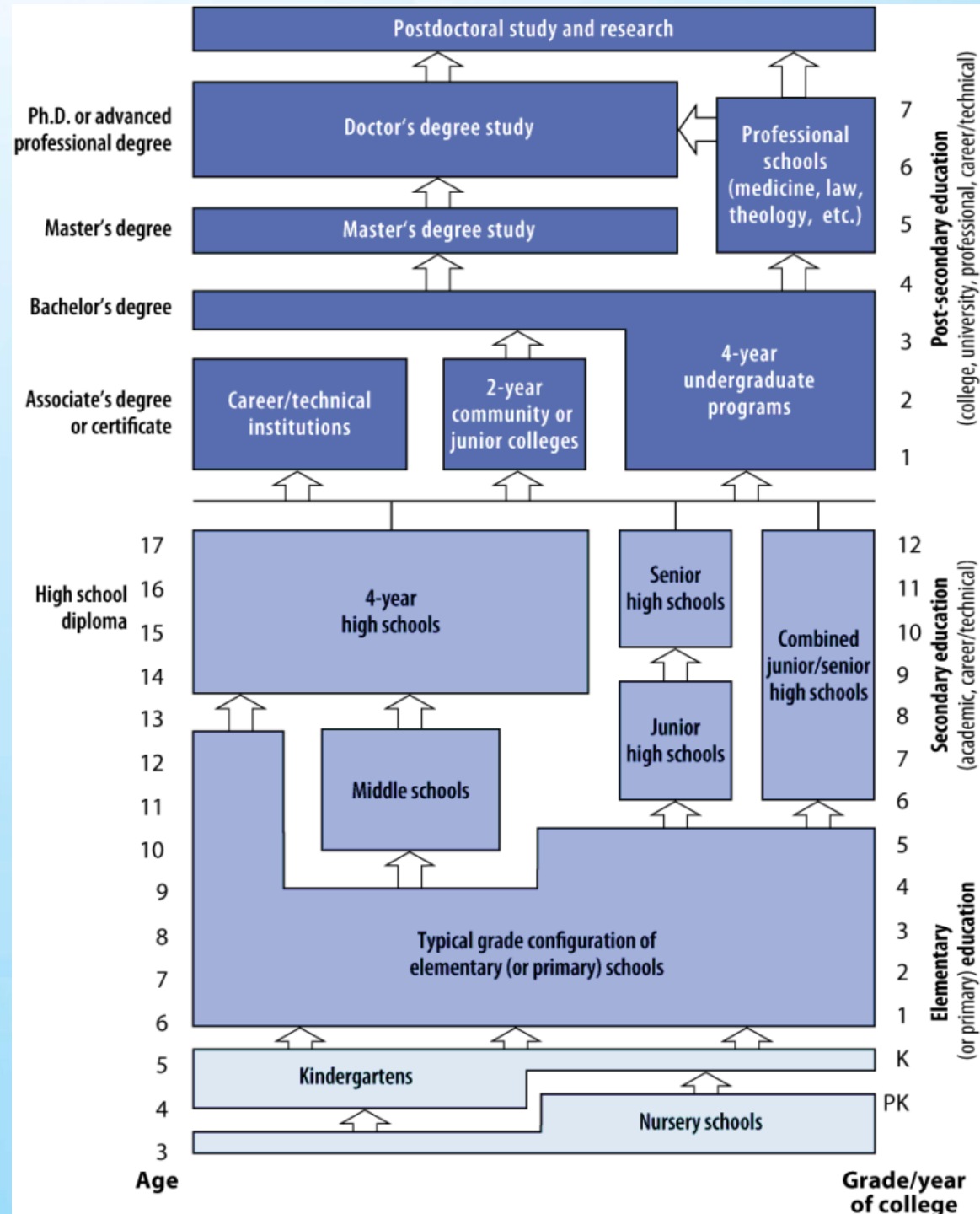
“Conditional acceptance”

ESL courses + core subjects = University admission + credit

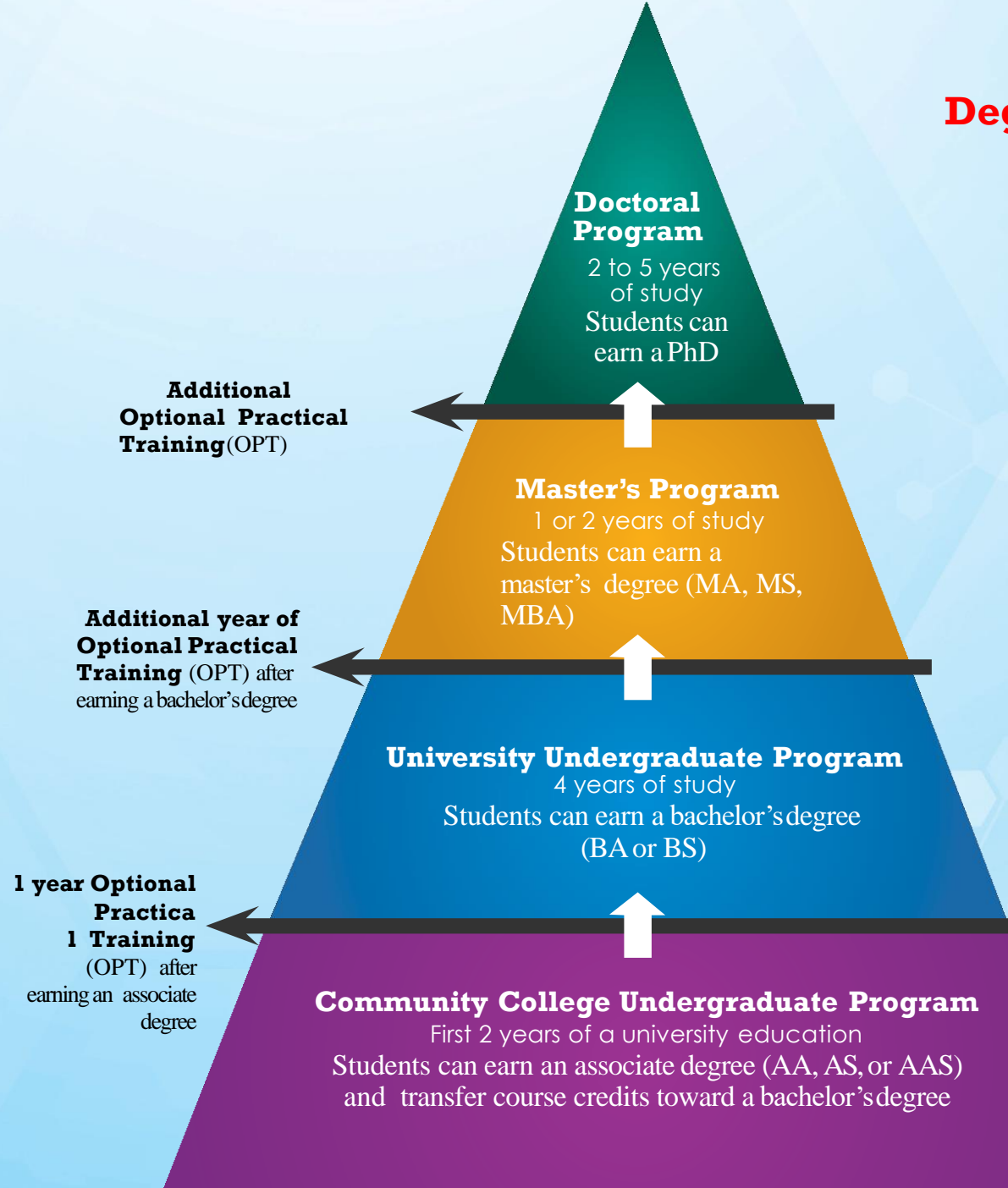
The background features a light blue gradient with a pattern of overlapping hexagons and lines, some of which are highlighted with a soft glow. A dark blue horizontal banner is positioned across the middle of the image, containing the title text in white.

An Introduction of U.S. Higher Education System

U.S. Education System



U.S. Higher Education System



Degrees Awarded at Colleges and Universities

| Undergraduate Degrees | Approx. Years Required |
|---|------------------------|
| Awarded by Community Colleges* | |
| AA Associate of Arts | 2 |
| AS Associate of Science | 2 |
| AAS/AAA Associate of Applied Science/Arts | 2 |

*Community colleges also award vocational certificates and licenses after successful completion of a 1- or 2-year program.

Awarded by 4-Year Colleges and Universities

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| BA Bachelor of Arts | 4 |
| BS Bachelor of Science | 4 |

| Graduate Degrees | Approx. Years Required |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| MA Master of Arts | 1-2 |
| MS Master of Science | 1-2 |
| MBA Master of Business Admin | 1-2 |
| PhD Doctor of Philosophy | 2-5 |

An Introduction to U.S. Higher Education

-- Colleges & Universities --

Community Colleges

These 2-year institutions, also known as technical or junior colleges, award associate degrees upon completion of a 2-year program of study. An associate degree enables students to:

- ▶ Transfer to a 4-year college or university for an additional 2 years of study to obtain a bachelor's degree
- ▶ Begin a career immediately in the workplace that does not require a 4-year degree

Four-Year Colleges and Universities

- ▶ Four-year institutions offer bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees.
- ▶ Most 4-year degree programs accept course credits earned by community college students.
- ▶ Ex: Boston College, Pierce College, City College of New York...



An Introduction to U.S. Higher Education

INDEPENDENT & DECENTRALIZED

The 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia and the territories, are directly in charge of their own education systems, resulting in tremendous diversity of education nationwide.

The State Role

vs

The Federal Role

vs

The Local Role

Means that:

- » Colleges and Universities vary in many different ways.
- » Different requirements and different Financial aids for both.
- » Colleges and Universities have different admission criteria.

An Introduction to U.S. Higher Education

Basic Classifications in the Carnegie Classification System

| Carnegie Basic | Description (Verbatim) |
|--|---|
| Tribal Colleges | Colleges and universities that are members of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, as identified in IPEDS Institutional Characteristics. |
| Special Focus Institutions | Institutions where a high concentration of degrees is in a single field or set of related fields such as arts and health care professions. Excludes Tribal Colleges. |
| Associate's Colleges | Institutions at which the highest level degree awarded is an associate's degree. The institutions are sorted into nine categories based on the intersection of two factors: disciplinary focus (transfer, career & technical or mixed) and dominant student type (traditional, nontraditional or mixed). Excludes Special Focus Institutions and Tribal Colleges. |
| Baccalaureate/ Associate's Colleges | Includes four-year colleges (by virtue of having at least one baccalaureate degree program) that conferred more than 50 percent of degrees at the associate's level . Excludes Special Focus Institutions, Tribal Colleges, and institutions that have sufficient master's or doctoral degrees to fall into those categories. |

An Introduction to U.S. Higher Education

Basic Classifications in the Carnegie Classification System

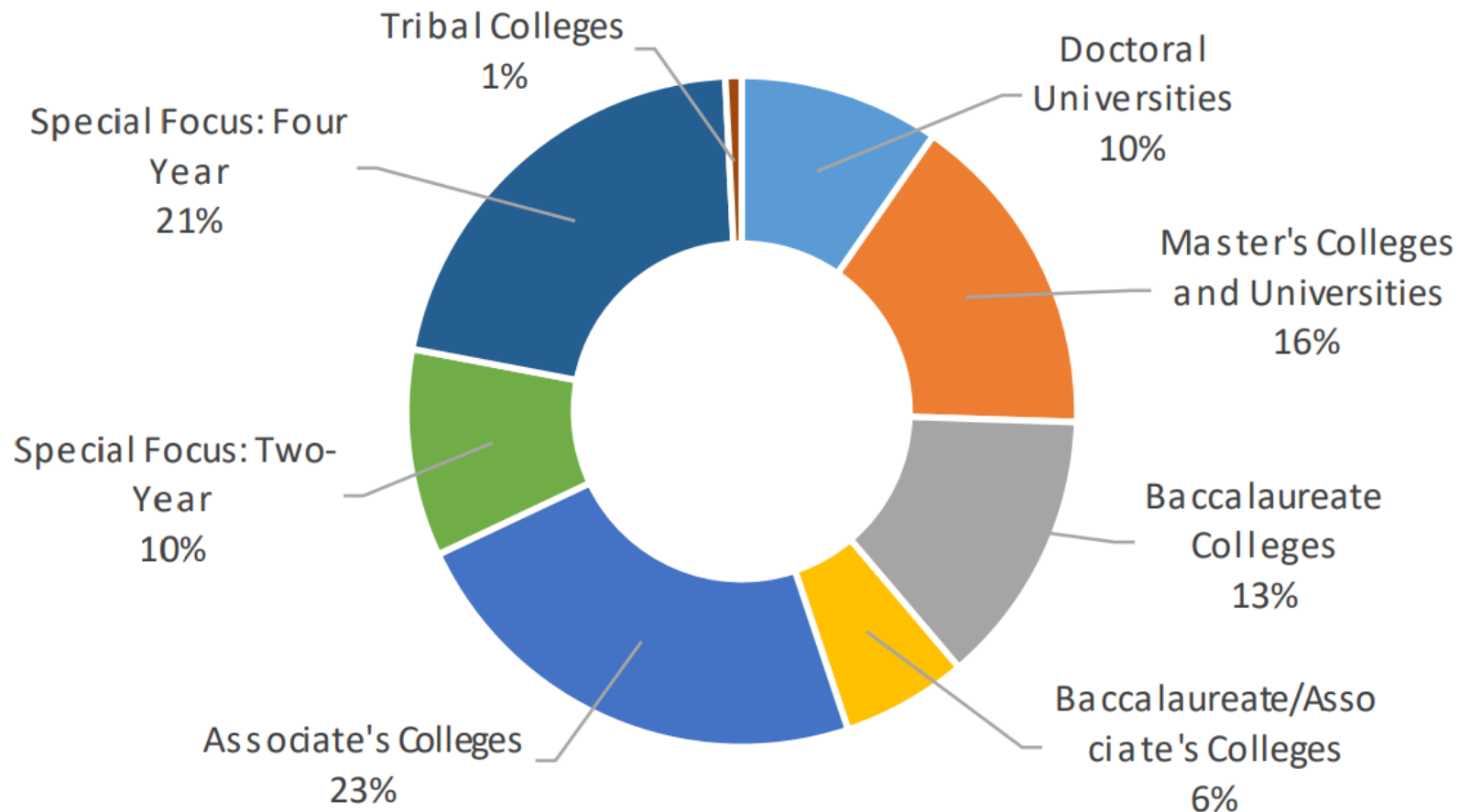
| Carnegie Basic | Description (Verbatim) |
|---|--|
| Baccalaureate Colleges | Includes institutions where baccalaureate or higher degrees represent at least 50 percent of all degrees but where fewer than 50 master's degrees or 20 doctoral degrees were awarded during the update year. (Some institutions above the master's degree threshold are also included.). Excludes Special Focus Institutions and Tribal Colleges. |
| Master's Colleges & Universities | Includes institutions that awarded at least 50 master's degrees and fewer than 20 doctoral degrees during the update year (with occasional exceptions). Excludes Special Focus Institutions and Tribal Colleges. |
| Doctoral Universities | Includes institutions that awarded at least 20 research/scholarship doctoral degrees during the update year and also institutions with below 20 research/scholarship doctoral degrees that awarded at least 30 professional practice doctoral degrees in at least 2 programs. Excludes Special Focus Institutions and Tribal Colleges. |

An Introduction to U.S. Higher Education

The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education®

An important reference for understanding how U.S. institutions of higher education compare to one another

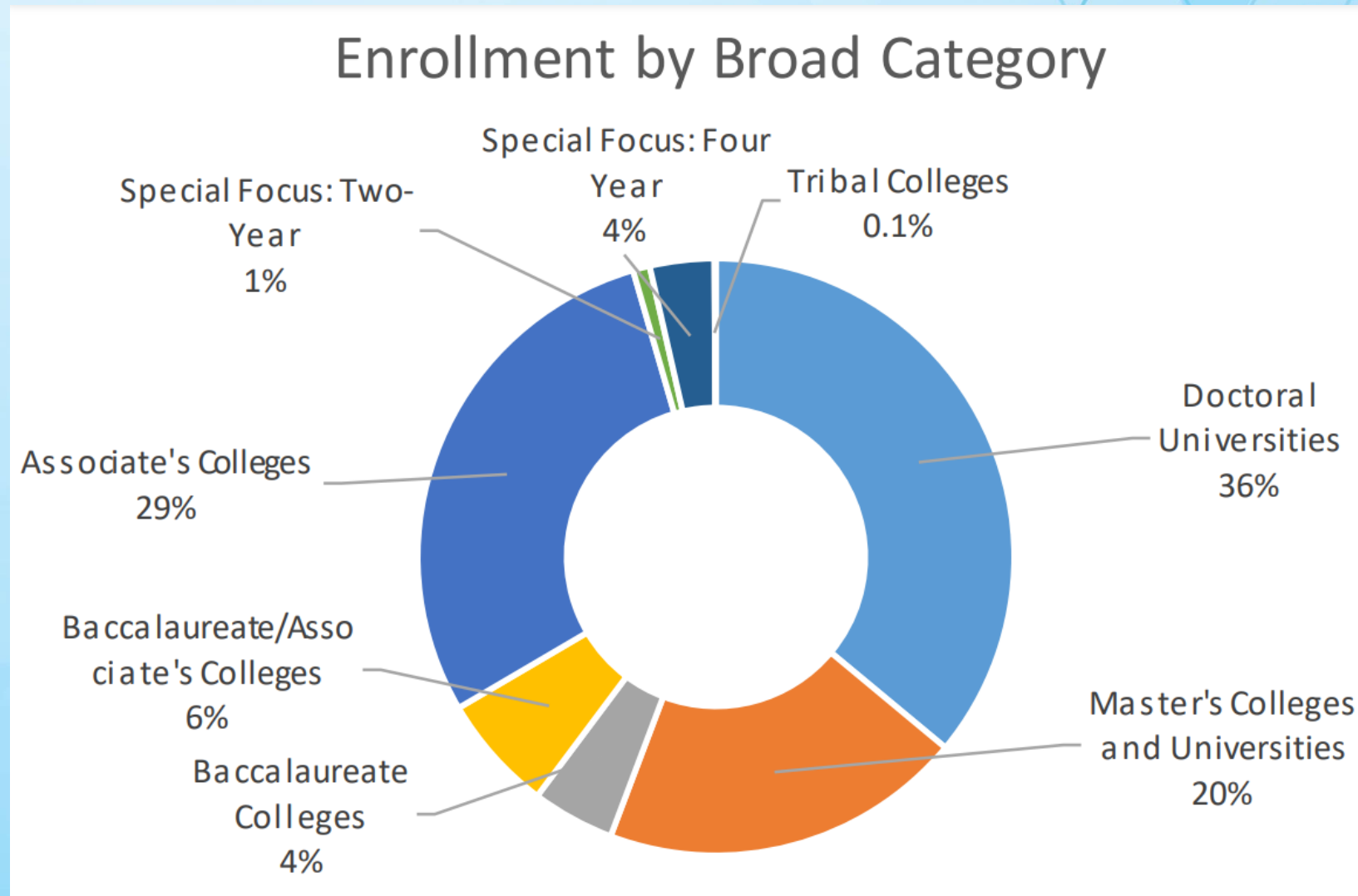
Number of Institutions by Broad Category



An Introduction of U.S Higher Education

The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education®

An important reference for understanding how U.S. institutions of higher education compare to one another



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Accreditation

An Introduction to U.S. Higher Education

WHAT IS ACCREDITATION?

Accreditation is the system of recognition and quality assurance for institutions and programs of higher education in the United States.

Over **2,900** accredited U.S. higher education institutions that hosted international students

An Introduction to U.S. Higher Education

TYPES OF U.S. ACCREDITATION

- ✓ **Regional accreditors:** Accredit public and private, mainly nonprofit and degree-granting, two- and four-year institutions.
- ✓ **National faith-related accreditors:** Accredit religiously affiliated and doctrinally based institutions, mainly nonprofit and degree-granting.
- ✓ **National career-related accreditors:** Accredit mainly for-profit, career-based, single-purpose institutions, both degree and non-degree.
- ✓ **Programmatic accreditors:** Accredit specific programs, professions and freestanding schools, e.g., law, medicine, engineering and health professions.

In the United States, accreditation is carried out by private, nonprofit organizations designed for this specific purpose.

An Introduction to U.S. Higher Education

PURPOSES OF U.S. ACCREDITATION

1

Assuring quality

2

Access to federal and state funds

3

Engendering private sector confidence

4

Easing transfer of courses and programs among colleges and universities

An Introduction to U.S. Higher Education

TWO MAIN ENTITIES OVERSEEING ACCREDITATION ORGANIZATIONS

COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION (CHEA)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (USDE)

The screenshot shows the CHEA website homepage. At the top left is the CHEA logo with the text "Council for Higher Education Accreditation" and "CHEA International Quality Group CIQG". To the right are links for "BROWSE DIRECTORIES" and "CONTACT US" along with social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. Below this is a search bar with the placeholder text "Search for anything ..." and a "SEARCH" button. A navigation menu below the search bar includes "About", "Accreditation & Recognition", "Publications & Research", "Accreditation & Federal Policy", "International Quality Group", and "Membership". The main content area is titled "BROWSE DATABASES AND DIRECTORIES" and features a sub-header "Database of Institutions and Programs Accredited by Recognized U.S. Accrediting Organizations". Below this are three large teal boxes with white icons: a classical building for "Search Institutions", a stack of books for "Search Programs", and a checkmark for "Search Accreditors". Each box has a brief description of the search results available.

CHEA Council for Higher Education Accreditation
CHEA International Quality Group CIQG

BROWSE DIRECTORIES | CONTACT US | f | t | in

Search for anything ... SEARCH

About Accreditation & Recognition Publications & Research Accreditation & Federal Policy International Quality Group Membership

BROWSE DATABASES AND DIRECTORIES

Database of Institutions and Programs Accredited by Recognized U.S. Accrediting Organizations

Search Institutions
Search over 8,200 accredited colleges, universities, and higher education institutions. Find institutions by location, program types, accreditation status and more.

Search Programs
Search over 44,000 accredited programs. Find Schools and Campuses that offer specific Programs, search locally, or nationally.

Search Accreditors
Search over 80 Institutional and programmatic accreditor profiles. Find recognized accreditors in the United States.

The screenshot shows the U.S. Department of Education website homepage. At the top right are links for "Skip to main content", "About Us", "Contact Us", "FAQs", and "Language Assistance". Below this is the U.S. Department of Education logo and a search bar. A navigation menu below the search bar includes "Student Loans", "Grants", "Laws", and "Data". The main content area features four large teal boxes with white icons and text: a graduation cap for "STUDENT LOANS", a group of people for "GRANTS", a young girl for "LAWS & GUIDANCE", and a network diagram for "DATA". Below this is a "Press Releases" section with a list of recent news items and a "Betsy DeVos Secretary of Education" section with a photo and social media links. To the right is a "How Do I Find...?" section with a list of search topics.

Skip to main content | About Us | Contact Us | FAQs | Language Assistance

U.S. Department of Education

Search...

Student Loans Grants Laws Data

STUDENT LOANS
Get all the information you need to apply for or manage repayment of your federal student loans. GO >

GRANTS
Learn more about grant opportunities, applications, and details about grants awarded. GO >

LAWS & GUIDANCE
Find federal education legislation, regulations, guidance, and other policy documents. GO >

DATA
Explore and download data and learn about education-related data and research. GO >

Press Releases

- Secretary DeVos Expands on Revamped College Scorecard, Adding Second-year Post Graduation Earnings and Cumulative Loan Data to Help Students Make Informed Choices
- Next Gen portal will help reduce administrative burden, streamline processes for financial aid professionals who administer the federal student aid programs
- Secretary DeVos Unveils Interactive Online Portal to Provide Transparency on Use of CARES Act Education Funding by States, Grantees
- [More...](#)

Betsy DeVos
Secretary of Education

- Bio
- Speeches
- @BetsyDeVosED

How Do I Find...?

- Student loans, forgiveness
- College accreditation
- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
- FERPA
- FAFSA
- 1098, tax forms
- More...

The background is a light blue gradient with a pattern of overlapping hexagons and lines, resembling a molecular or network structure. A dark blue horizontal banner is centered across the image, containing white text.

Different School Choice Options - Finding the Best Fit for Our Students

Different School Choice Options - Finding the Best Fit for Our Students

This topic will cover the below parts:



- **Private vs Public**
- **Different types of H.E. Institutions in the U.S.**
- **Association for student Athletes**
- **Distance Education, non-Degree study**
- **International students' trend pathway and options**
- **Counselling guides and decisive matters**

Private vs. Public Universities/Colleges: What's the Difference?



by Tyler Epps

Published on October 28, 2021

Different School Choice Options - Finding the Best Fit for Our Students

| | Public Institutions | Private Institutions |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Quality | Both can provide well- recognized quality | |
| Type | Not-for-Profit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not-for-profit • For-Profit |
| Funded | Receiving government funding | Funded by tuition fees, research grants, combination of endowments (non-taxable gifts sources) from private and alumni |
| Program offerings | More degree programs | Fewer academic majors |
| Campus and capacity | Large and admit wide range of students | Can be large, medium size or small size |
| Tuition | In-state residents pay lower than out-of-state residents Less expensive | No distinction between state and non-state residents More expensive |
| Financial aids | Federal financial aids | Federal financial aids |

Different School Choice Options - Finding the Best Fit for Our Students

| | Public Institutions | Private Institutions |
|----------------------|--|--|
| Class size | typically have larger class sizes with less one-on-one interaction between students and professors | <ul style="list-style-type: none">tend to have much smaller class sizes, which creates a more intimate learning environment between students and instructors |
| Campus diversity | often less geographically diverse | often more geographically diverse and international students. |
| Learning environment | independent students typically better at public colleges | for students who may need a little extra direction and supervision. |

Different School Choice Options - Finding the Best Fit for Our Students

Different types of H.E. institutions in the U.S.

Ivy League

One of the most famous alliances of universities in the world, the Ivy League is a group of eight historic **private non-profit universities** in the northeastern United States



1. Brown University (Providence, Rhode Island)
2. Columbia University (New York, New York)
3. Cornell University (Ithaca, New York)
4. Dartmouth College (Dartmouth, New Hampshire)
5. Harvard University (Cambridge, Massachusetts)
6. Princeton University (Princeton, New Jersey)
7. The University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)
8. Yale University (New Haven, Connecticut)

Different School Choice Options - Finding the Best Fit for Our Students

Different types of H.E. institutions in the U.S

Community College

Community Colleges (or junior colleges) play an important role in the U.S. education system and have greatly expanded access to education since their inception at the beginning of the 20th century.

Vocational-technical and Career Colleges

Vocational-technical and career colleges offer specialized training in a particular industry or career. Possible programs of study include the culinary arts, firefighting, dental hygiene and medical-records technology. These colleges usually offer certificates or associate degrees.

Different School Choice Options - Finding the Best Fit for Our Students

Different types of H.E. institutions in the U.S

Research Universities

Research universities tend to be larger institutions and focus on research. These universities have many baccalaureate programs and commit to graduate education through the doctorate

Liberal Arts Philosophy not “art schools”

Liberal arts colleges have an emphasis on undergraduate studies in the liberal arts and sciences. They aim to provide an overview of the arts, humanities, mathematics, natural sciences, and social sciences.

1. Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
2. Sonoma State University in California



Different School Choice Options - Finding the Best Fit for Our Students

Different types of H.E. institutions in the U.S

Colleges with a special focus

Religious Affiliation Schools

Religious affiliation is the self-identified association of a person with a religion, denomination or sub-denominational religious group.

1. Centre College, Danville, Kentucky
2. Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts
3. Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio
4. DePauw University, Greencastle, Indiana



Specialized-mission Colleges

Historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) focus on educating African American students. Hispanic-serving institutions (HSIs) are colleges where at least 25 percent of the full-time undergraduate students are Hispanic.

Different School Choice Options - Finding the Best Fit for Our Students

Different types of H.E. institutions in the U.S

Colleges with a special focus

Arts Colleges

Art colleges focus on the arts. In addition to regular course work, these colleges provide training in areas such as photography, music, theater or fashion design. Most of these colleges offer associate or bachelor's degrees in the fine arts or a specialized field.

Single-gender Institution

Single-gender institutions only admit students of one sex

1. Morehouse College in Georgia
2. Saint John's University in Minnesota

Different School Choice Options - Finding the Best Fit for Our Students

Associations for student Athletes

NCAA: National Collegiate Athletic Association

NJCAA: National Junior College Athletic Association

NAIA: National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics

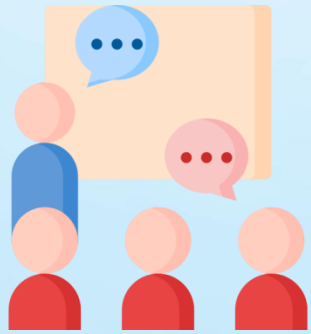
Distance Education

Online learning, also known as distance education, three leading US providers of online and distance learning

1. University of New Mexico (UNM)
2. University of Oregon (UO)
3. The Ohio State University (OSU)



Different School Choice Options - Finding the Best Fit for Our Students



Non-Degree study

Exchange Programs

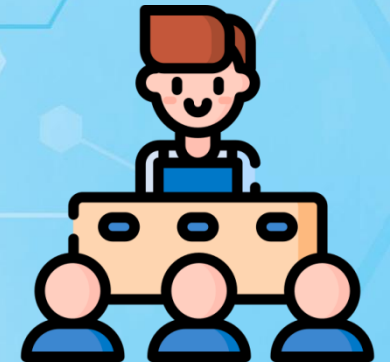
University Exchanges

Professional Exchange Programs

Certificate and Executive Education Programs

Internships

Visiting Fellows and Scholars



Different School Choice Options - Finding the Best Fit for Our Students

Degree Recognition

- To measure student progress toward graduation: **To graduate**, students must **accumulate a certain number of credits**. In bachelor's degree programs, for example, students typically need to earn at least **120 semester credits** or **180 quarter credits**.
- To determine the enrollment status of students. Students must be enrolled in courses equivalent to a certain number of credits to be considered a full-time student. This threshold is typically **12 credits per semester** at the undergraduate level. Students enrolled in fewer classes than that threshold are classified as part time.
- To determine pricing of tuition and additional fees. Many institutions charge tuition per credit, or they provide **cost estimates** to students on a **per credit basis**.

Different School Choice Options - Finding the Best Fit for Our Students

Articulation Agreement

An articulation agreement is an official guarantee that classes completed at one school will be accepted when a student transfers to another school.

"An articulation agreement outlines which courses in which institutions will map toward a specific degree program,"

(Brenda McCoy, Associate Vice president for strategic initiatives at the University of North Texas).

Students should also be clear about what type of program they intend to pursue before they transfer:

"If they did a general liberal arts pathway, and then decide they want to major in engineering, they essentially have to start over. Students don't have to declare a major at the community colleges for the most part, but they do need to be really clear with the counselor."

Different School Choice Options - Finding the Best Fit for Our Students

Grade Conversion Tables

| Vietnam's Grading System | Equivalents | | Vietnamese Description | English Description | % of Students receiving this score |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| 9-10 | A+ | 4.0 | Xuất sắc | Outstanding | Less than 5% of students |
| 8-9 | A | 3.5 | Giỏi | Excellent/Very Good | 5-10% |
| 7 | B+ | 3.0 | Khá | Good | About 20-25% |
| 6-7 | B | 2.5 | Trung bình | Average | About 40-50% |
| 5-6 | C | 2.0 | Yếu | Marginal | About 5-10% |
| <5 | D/F | =<1.0 | Kém/Không đạt/Trượt | Fail | For fail courses |

Finding a Good Fit for our students



Research Your Options

Learn about the variety of options available and how to identify an institution that best fits your needs.



Finance Your Studies

Need funding? Explore options or check out our university financial aid opportunity list.



Complete Your Application

Plan ahead and know the documents and requirements to apply for your program.



Apply For Your Student Visa

Become familiar with U.S. student visa requirements and allow plenty of time to prepare your application.



Prepare For Your Departure

Pre-departure information including gathering documents for arrival and immigration compliance.

How do students begin if they want to study in America?

1

**Decide
which
universities
to apply to**

2

**Contact the
Office of
Admissions**

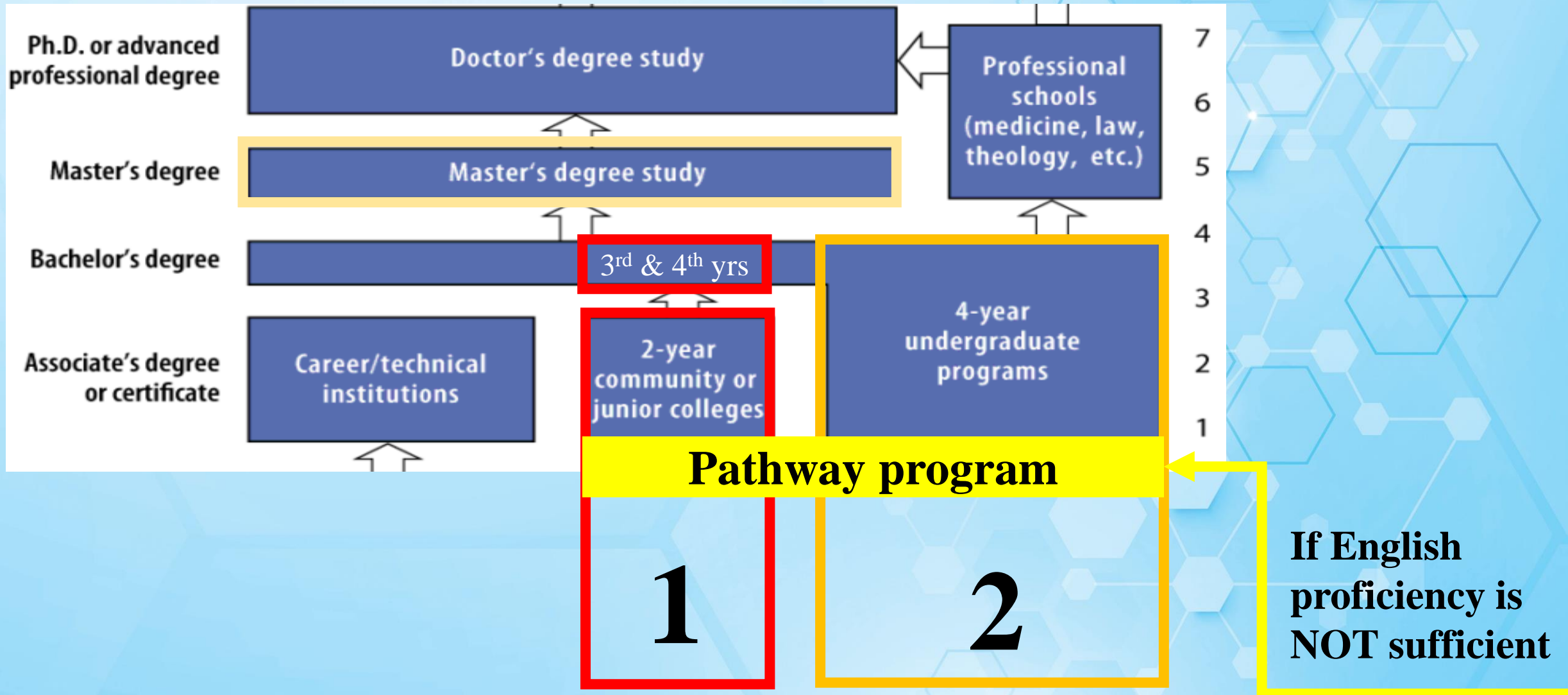
3

**Complete
the
applications**

4

**Be ready for
visa
application**

Two main trendy pathways for Undergraduate students



Counselling guides and decisive matters

☑ Academic and Career Goals

- How strong are a university's career services and U.S. alumni network?
- Does the university provide research or off-campus work opportunities?
- Will your degree be accepted in the U.S.?
- Does the university have a good reputation in the U.S.?



Counselling guides and decisive matters

☑ Expenses and Financial Capability

Expenses

- Tuition and fees: books and supplies, students activities, medical insurance
- Living costs: room/board, food, transportation
- Other personal expenses



Financial Capability

- Assess personal funds
- Identify source of financial assistance
- Reducing educational costs



Counselling guides and decisive matters

☑ Housing Options

Typical house options

- On campus dormitories
- Off campus apartments
- Homestays



1. Picture your ideal experience and work backwards
2. Choose which student housing option suits you
3. Research the area and find the BEST location for you
4. Pick a price that suits your needs
5. Get to know U.S. student housing
6. Find your perfect student home



Counselling guides and decisive matters

☑ Lifestyle and other consideration

