

Post-Degree Credit Certificate and Diploma Framework

Vision

Post-degree credit certificate and diploma programs are an extension of existing approved degree programs. These credentials recognize the role of universities in addressing the lifelong learning needs of graduates of both undergraduate and graduate programs. This is consistent with the Campus Alberta concept of lifelong learning being foundational to an individual's employability and personal fulfillment and to Alberta's competitiveness.

In our knowledge-based economy, many professions require workers to continue or update their education in order to keep abreast of new advances in research and developments within the industry. Increasingly, university graduates need to engage in education programs to add new areas of expertise, but with full-time jobs, they may not desire to commit to another degree program. Through careful structuring of existing courses from undergraduate or graduate programs, post-degree credit certificate and diploma programs provide an opportunity for students to engage in a program of study that fulfills an immediate need and also has the potential to ladder into the existing program.

Framework

The following differentiated framework for post-degree credit certificates and diplomas distinguishes the credentials by the level of coursework and the entry-level of the student. Diplomas require more credits than certificates, as well as a greater degree of mastery of subject matter and learning outcomes.

Proposals for new certificate and diploma programs or changes to existing programs are submitted to Advanced Education and Technology for approval through the Program Registry System. A Campus Alberta Quality Council review of the proposals is not required.

Credential	Minimum Credits	Admission	Intent
University Certificate	15	Bachelor's degree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An individual may require skills and expertise at the undergraduate level; for example, a teacher wanting to learn a language. ▪ Intent of the credential is to recognize a basic level of education in the discipline, and the credential may ladder to an undergraduate diploma or a second baccalaureate degree.
University Diploma	30	Bachelor's degree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An individual may require skills and expertise at the undergraduate level; for example, a teacher wanting to learn a language. ▪ Intent of the credential is to recognize an intermediate level of education in the discipline, and the credential may ladder to a second baccalaureate degree.
Post-Baccalaureate Certificate	9	Bachelor's degree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An individual would like to pursue graduate-level coursework, without committing to a master's degree. ▪ Intent of the credential is to recognize specialized education in the discipline, and the credential may ladder to a post-baccalaureate diploma or master's degree.

Credential	Minimum Credits	Admission	Intent
Post-Baccalaureate Diploma	18	Bachelor's degree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An individual would like to pursue graduate-level coursework, but without committing to a master's degree. ▪ Intent of the credential is to recognize advanced education in the discipline, and the credential may ladder to a master's degree.
Post-Master's Certificate	9	Master's degree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An individual would like to pursue graduate-level coursework, without committing to a doctoral degree. ▪ Intent of the credential is to recognize specialized education in the discipline, and the credential may ladder to a post-master's diploma or doctoral degree.
Post-Master's Diploma	18	Master's degree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An individual would like to pursue graduate-level coursework, without committing to a doctoral degree. ▪ Intent of the credential is to recognize advanced education in the discipline, and the credential may ladder to a doctoral degree.
Post-Doctoral Certificate	9	Doctoral degree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An individual would like to pursue doctoral-level coursework. ▪ Intent of the credential is to recognize specialized education in the discipline, and the credential may ladder to a post-doctoral diploma.
Post-Doctoral Diploma	18	Doctoral degree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An individual would like to pursue doctoral-level coursework. ▪ Intent of the credential is to recognize advanced education in the discipline.

The **University Certificate** and **University Diploma** with a high school admission requirement do not fall under the category of post-degree credit certificate and diplomas. They are included here to represent the credentials that currently exist at the University of Lethbridge and Athabasca University.

Credential	Minimum Credits	Admission	Intent
University Certificate	30	High school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An individual would like to acquire skills and expertise at the undergraduate level. ▪ Intent of the credential is to recognize a general understanding of the subject matter that defines a discipline or specialization, and the credential may ladder to an undergraduate diploma or a baccalaureate degree.
University Diploma	60	High school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An individual would like to acquire skills and expertise at the undergraduate level. ▪ Intent of the credential is to recognize an intermediate level of education in the discipline or specialization, and the credential may ladder to a baccalaureate degree.