

Three-Year Baccalaureate Degree

To be eligible for post-baccalaureate or graduate study, an applicant must provide evidence of the equivalent of a U.S. four-year baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution. To determine equivalency, we must consider the educational system of that country and how advanced degrees are earned, including the role of primary and secondary education. The typical United States education track is a 12 + 4 primary/secondary/baccalaureate system. An evaluation of the applicant's relevant system is required to determine equivalency before the file is reviewed for admission. Variations in educational systems will be evaluated in the following manner:

Category 1	13 years of P/S	3 years of B.A.	Equivalent to U.S.	No restrictions
Category 2	12 years of P/S	3 years of B.A.	Equivalent to U.S.	Invokes 3-year policy
Category 2	11 years of P/S	4 years of B.A.	Equivalent to U.S.	Invokes 3-year policy
Category 2	10 years of P/S	5 years of B.A.	Equivalent to U.S.	Invokes 3-year policy
Category 3	11 years of P/S	3 years of B.A.	Not Equivalent	Considered associate degree; transfer only
Category 3	10 years of P/S	4 years of B.A.	Not Equivalent	Considered associate degree; transfer only
Category 4	10 years of P/S	3 years of B.A.	Not Equivalent	1 year maximum of transfer credit only

If the program length in the applicant's educational records necessitates action under the three-year bachelor's policy, an assessment of recognition/accreditation of the program and institution is checked with the proper authority from the home country. As well as establishing institutional recognition, the evaluator reviews the design and intent of the degree under consideration. A three-year degree should be earned in an academic program with further study available rather than a technical degree considered the terminal degree for a particular vocation, e.g. Bachelor of Technology degree from the U.K.

As there is some deficiency in general education for some three-year bachelor degrees, this policy has an additional requirement for applicants in Category 2 educational systems. Applicants from these systems must all provide official scores reflecting successful completion of an entrance exam (GRE, GMAT, or MAT as determined by the program) to ensure the applicant is ready for study at the graduate level.

Once all these benchmarks have been met, the applicant with a three-year degree in Category 1 or 2, regardless of country of origin or educational system, can be considered for graduate-level admission.

When the evaluator determines that the earned degree is less than the required minimum for baccalaureate equivalency, the applicant has several choices possible to remedy the deficiency:

1. Earn an additional post-baccalaureate advanced degree or professional certificate that is of at least one year in duration.
2. Enter a university as an undergraduate transfer student and take the necessary courses required for a baccalaureate degree.
3. Enroll in a formal U.S. degree completion program at an accredited institution.

The Bachelor of Humanities degree earned by Seattle University Matteo Ricci College graduates is considered equivalent to a four-year degree and eligible for graduate consideration at Seattle University. Other degrees of this nature would be evaluated based upon the [Matteo Ricci College](#) model. See **Policy #90-1** for more details.

Occasionally, applicants for graduate programs will have already earned an advanced professional degree in the U.S. without earning a four-year baccalaureate degree e.g. Creighton University Dental School graduates. In such instances, we would be able to consider the applicant on the basis of their advanced degree rather than the undergraduate coursework.

Originally Issued: 06/2004